

THE
NAVY ROYAL:

OR A.

Sea-Cook

T U R N ' D

PROJECTOR.

CONTAINING

A few Thoughts, about Manning our
Ships of War with the best of *Sailors*,
without Violences, and in the most
pleasing manner: According to the
Fourth Article of a late Proposal,
Publish'd by our Worthy *Chaplain*,
of Her Majesty's Ship the *Lyme*.

By *BARNABY SLUSH*, Cook
of the said Ship.

LONDON: Printed for *B. Bragge*, at
the *Raven* in *Pater-Noster-Row*, 1709.

THE PREFACE.

NOne can be more sensible than my little Self, of the impending Fate attending this, my dearly beloved Issue: For, without having Recourse to the Propherick Genius of my most Honour'd Countryman-Esq; Bickerstaff, I, with my own proper Opticks, can easily foresee, how much this poor Naked Brat will suffer, from the Resentments of a few, in its Subject Matter; and from the Censure of all, in the unseasonable Timing of it. As to the former, I shall not much fear, but pity 'em; for really Heat is a very uncomfortable Companion in the Summer: And as to the rest of Mankind, I shall not attempt to bring my self off by endeavouring to lessen the Fair, and almost secure Hopes we have of a lasting Peace, with telling 'em what a slippery Gentleman the Confederates have to deal with; or by remarking what an endless Concatenation of things goes to the composing of a Mouse-Trap; infer from thence the mighty Time 'twill Cost, to make up this strong Iron-Teeth'd Gin, that is to Hamper, and for ever hold-fast, that Grand Toothless Boar, that has shed so much Gore in Europe.

No, Reader, as the very Conception, as well as Birth, of this little Paper, was purely Contingent,

ge
D
ta
Sc
ve
wh
me
e'er
for
tw
my
M
Di
for
cen
seld
tha
said
was
ver
in
less
chin
Thi
but
lone
deni
lowi
F
ways
dear
and
Class
steps
foun

The PREFACE.

gent, the ill Timing of it ought not to lie at my Door, but theirs that occasion'd it, for, if I should take my Honest Word for it, of all my Aversions, Scribbling was ever the greatest, even from the very pristine Days of my Sucking-bottle; in all which long tract of Time, never, to my best remembrance, did I so much as once Dream, that e'er I should have ought to answer to the World for, but in that of my boil'd Peck solely; for as 'twas all along a rivotted Opinion in me, that my niggard Stars never design'd me a loftier Mansion than a Cook-Room; so, like a wise Diogenes, (as I always thought my self) I conform'd my Ambition to my supposed Destiny, and center'd even my very Wishes there: Very very seldom did my Thoughts Soar one Inch higher, than the steem of my Burgoo-Kettle. Thoughts, said I; that Enemy of our Quiet; no, seldom was I molested with those troublesome Gads; but very happily melted away all my smoaky Days, in the downy Embraces of a Calm and Thoughtless Tranquility; with now and then a small chirping Can of Flip, and Pipe of Tobacco. This was my Aim, these my Determinations; but alas, Man only can Purpose, 'tis God alone Disposes; and never sure, did he more evidently and eminently shew it, than in the following undertaking.

For, as I have been, Heaven be prais'd, always Bless'd with the Fortunate disposition of endeavouring ever, and always, to be Govern'd and Directed by my Betters; so, among all of this Class in the Ship, was there none, whose footsteps I trac'd with greater Deference, more profound Obedience, and implicit Assurance, than

The PREFACE.

Him, whom Heaven and the Queen, has, for that very purpose, been pleas'd to set over us poor Sinners, to be a Light unto our Feet, and a Lanthorn to our Paths: I look'd, I watch'd, I minded, and very precisely follow'd, this worthy Exemplar very happily, for these many many Years; happily I say, for it of course, and without force, kept me pleas'd and contented, with my humble State and Calling; and to leave the Morrow and the Mob, to take care of themselves. And in this sort had I liv'd long and many a fair Day, without troubling my Head with any excentrick Motions; till i' other Week, I found this great good Man a quitting his Nets, and the catching of Souls, and fell strait upon Angling for Projects; in order (as I heard) to send up a handsom Platter full of 'em, to the Navy-board; the rest (packt up in a Butter-Firkin) to be reserv'd as a Present to the Council-Table; I began to be deadly apprehensive of my own Sloth, which then seem'd to stare with a Sinful Countenance upon me, and afraid that Heaven requir'd more at my Hands, than barely dabling them in a Beef-Tub. To ease my burthen'd Breast of this heavy Load, I strait repair'd to a very able Acquaintance of mine, Mr. Ductor Dubitantium, and laid all my Consciencious Scruples before him. At first I was perfectly confounded, with the many Queries and Put-cases he was pleas'd to ask me; which I made him sensible of, and therefore desired he might once for all, tell me roundly and squarely, whether I ought bonafide, to stick close to my Text, and follow my Guide aforesaid, or not. Why, verily my good Friend, said he, I cannot resolve

The PREFACE.

resolve thee this, till I first know thy inward Man; for if thou hast got ever a Talent hid under a Napkin, most infallibly thou ought'st to produce it, as thy good and publick Spirited Teacher has done before thee, and deliver it forth to the Money-changers, the Money-changers said I, why they have too much by far already; I'd rather distribute it to the wide World, and let e'ry poor Christian have some, tho' it were but an Atom of it. With this Resolution, away I troop'd strait to my Cook-Room, resign'd over my Worldly Carnal Charge to the superintendancie of my Mate, (a trusty French-Man, once Turn-spit in France to the Pretender) and then shutting me close up in my gloomy Cabin, (form'd directly as 'twere for Contemplation) I there fell to Biting my Nails, and a Clawing my Poll; till at length Heaven (propitious to all well designing Sinners) so far cherish'd my Pia Mater with its benign Influences, that I, O wonderful! that, for the Heart of me never cou'd reach to the Capacity of Fabricating a simple Pasty, did in less, far less time, than Madam Luna takes to wash her Face clean, bring forth this Bonny little Minerva, without the least Finger of Midwifery from our Doctor. And thus, kind Reader, hast thou the Origin of this little Pamphleteer.

As to the Subject Matter of it, why verily 'tis but meer Gleanings; for our worthy Pastor having carry'd off the whole Glebe long before I came, nothing was left for poor me, but here and there a scatter'd Corn to pick up; so that to be very plain and sincere with thee, Reader, thou wilt find no more here, but just sufficient to let thee know, that the Cause of all

The P R E F A C E.

that Disgust and Aversion, which British and all other Mariners have for the Service in our Navy, proceeds not so much from a want of new Projects, and big Proposals, as for lack of true Discipline, or a thorough Compliance with those Laws, Rules, and Orders, already Established.

'Tis here lies the Blame and the Deficiency, and not in our Senate or Government, who, to their Glory be it said, have made the fairest Advances towards encouraging the Sons of Mars, upon both Elements, beyond any Age our Records can boast of, since the Days that Landed Men became barely Spectators of Battels, as degenerate Rome did of their Gladiators; I say ere since that Righteous Period, no Century can boast of fairer Encouragements, than are at this Day owing to the Bounty of our Renowned Queen, and the cheerful Contributions of the People. And yet, with great regret, it must be likewise said, that never did endeavours less answer the Important Ends they propos'd; for (as by the following Sheets we shall find) while that Heaven and her Majesty, endeavour on the one Hand, to shower down daily more and more Favours on us, the infernal Attempts and Practices of some, render them all Abortive: So that while we form to our selves at a distant View, big Ideas, and a flattering Picture of the Posture of our Affairs; when we come to make a more narrow Scrutiny, we find a direct reverse, good Pay, but bad Pay Masters; noble Hospitals, but ignoble Entertainment; rich Prizes, but poor Shares; many Surgeons, but few Cures; and splendid voluptuous Officers, but shabby starving Mariners.

Can

The P R E F A C E.

Can any thing be more provoking than all this, especially when Sailors consider (for they have Thought) that all those Wrongs and Hardships, proceed from those very Men, who of all others ought to shew 'em the tenderest Usage; they see and find, that it's themselves that undergo, and do every thing; that 'tis they only that Toil, and Watch, and Fast, and feel the Wets and the Colds, and all the other Hardships of a Sea-faring Life; while their Leaders all the while, sit gorging their Pamper'd Carcasses, or lie battenning in Ease and Luxury, regardless of their Wants, and bent upon nothing, but how to circumvent them of the very Necessaries of Life.

Pirates and Buccaneers, are Princes to such Animals, for there, as none are exempt from the general Toil and Danger; so if the Chief have a supream Share beyond his Comrades, 'tis because he's always the Leading Man in every daring Enterprize; and yet as Bold as he is in all other Attempts, he dares not offer to infringe the common Laws of Equity; but every Associate has his due Quota, because there needs no Appeal to Doctors-Commons for it. Thus these Hostes Humani generis, as great Robbers as they are to all besides, are precisely just among themselves; without which, they could no more Subsist, than a Structure without a Foundation; but our more uncultivate Barbarians, snatch at all; and if there's but the least Muttering rais'd, Mutiny's the Word, and strait the poor Wretch is Massacred.

Our Legislators indeed have been very particular; and most compleatly Rigid, in their Articles against Mutiny, and it does well; but

The P R E F A C E.

'twould do infinitely more so, were the like strictness provided against the Prime or first Causers of 'em. The Martial Law (wrested by Commanders to their own ends) traces the matter no farther, than the Ringleader of a Mutiny; whereas our Inquiries shou'd go one step higher, and say (as the Prophet did to the Prince after Gods own Heart) thou art the Villain; did or wou'd our Law, but reach thus home, we shou'd have more Lac'd Coats than Canvas Jackets, dangling at a Yard-Arm; I say not that such kind of Exemplary Punishments are common, but scarce seen among us, and that's the Foundation of all our ill Discipline; because an Officer, Conscious of his being the Prime Aggressor, cannot with the least shadow of Justice, or tincture of Humanity, brandish such awful Laws against them; and where such cannot in Justice be duly Executed, there will for ever be Desertions; it being Morally impossible, that any Man can voluntarily chuse to reside, where he meets with nothing but unfair Dealing. Knavery is odious e'en in a Beggar; but in a Fellow pretending to Honour, Birth, and Fortune, and whose very Charge it is to see Impartial Justice sway, for him to Prey upon them, by whom he as 'twere lives, moves, and has his being, bid defiance to all Law, and stand the Test of all Complaints: The very Thought en't shocks our Nature.

And yet thus 'twill ever be with many, while they have nothing to dread but a bare expulsion, backt with the prospect of stepping in again to better Advantage: A dreadful Affliction this is no doubt, to be turn'd out of a Fifth Rate, to lie

Idle

Idle
be t
Rea
derly
foll
have
thee
able
can
ther
The
how
fast
miste
stem
coct
Dre
I
than
Ag
self
thre
help
tru
Fri
adv
lien
as t
he,
sim
safe
phl
Shi
on
as

THE PREFACE.

Idle for half a Year, and then per force as 'twere, be tumbled again into a Third. And here (O Reader) lies the Foundation of all those Disorderly things, which thou wilt meet with in the following Pages; for as for those Animals we have been a speaking of, they ought not to give thee any surprize at all, for they act but suitable to their Natures; and Nature you know cannot, tho' God may, work Miracles, and gather Grapes of Thorns, and Figs of Thistles. Therefore, as I was going to say, the wonder is, how they got in; and by what means they keep fast in those Charges, they so wretchedly Administer: Here lies the Spring-head of the Distemper, which, like an Error in the first Concoction, is never to be remedied, without a strong Drench or Phlebotomy.

But alas, how shou'd I, vile as I am, expect that my poor Adviso's shou'd take place; in an Age, where the very Oracles of a Divinity it self, wou'd meet with Contempt, when deliver'd through the Organs of an Ass, which some, God help me, may very probably take me to be. And truly, I must ingeniously confess, that my good Friend, our Carpenter, has agen, and agen, advis'd, intreated, and beg'd me to insert, in lieu of my own, some Celebrated Name or other, as the true Author of all my Labours; nay, said he, there needs no Particularizing neither; the simple Word, a Nobleman, will both keep you safe from a Premunire, and make your Pamphlet run about every where, as Current as Mill'd Shillings; whereas meeting at the first glance on the Title Page, with such a Rascally Name as Slush, they'll be as regardless of it, as a Par-

The PARALLEL

Son is of a Beggar. I saw full well the Truth, of what this Cordial Friend of mine told me; but alas, said I, dear Crany, I'm but frail Flesh and Blood, like other Mortals; and since we Daily, Hourly, and every Minute, behold all Mankind, from the Duke down to the Petty Constable, Sacrifice all Thoughts of the Publick, for the sake of a little dirty Pelf; shall I, nay can I, resign over to I know not who, the Glory of my own proper Labours? no, nothing that's Human can grant it, even the bare prospect, fills me already with an unspeakable Titulation: And verily, most courteous Reader, I won'd not, no not for all the Pork and Peas in the Navy, renounce the just Claim I shall for ever have, to that noble Boast of a certain Eminent Scribler, like my self,

Ego meis majoribus virtute præluxi.

The

The Introduction.

WE are every Spring, nay almost every Month, falling upon New Ways and Means, to raise with Facility, and without the ungrateful Methods of *Press-gangs*, those necessary Complements of good *Sailors*; which our Ships of War, and Squadrons yearly require: this sets some upon starting one Project, and other some another; this Person is for enlarging the Pay, that the Bounty-Money, and a Third the Boys and the Children. Now when Projects turn upon this Hinge, they may possibly serve to answer a present exigence; and pick up a sufficient Herd, such as they are, to compleat the Ships Books; but that's all. For 'tis not barely the full Musters, that the Nation is to trust to; if the Two Thirds are made up of Boys, *Pick-pockets* and *Skipkennels*, as they commonly are; whom such trifling Baits draw into the Service: For a true, and active Mariner, is not to be decoy'd by such a Bounty; their Daily and repeated Desertions, whereby some loose one, two, nay Three Years Pay due; with the Hazard of a Swing at the Yard Arm, is a convincing proof, that it's not Money, so much as fair Usage, that has the strongest Influence over them.

Now

Now, 'tis these Men of Spirit, and Resentment, that we are most to seek after; since he, who for an unhandsome Drubbing, can fling up a Two, or Three Years Pay, and throw his Neck too into Danger; will never be found cold, or backward in any attempt, how desperate soever; that carry's the Prospect of Praise and Preferment: and the concurring Examples of so many of his Companions along with it.

It is Men, such as these, that are the very Life and Soul of the Navy; and without which, a Fleet can never be said to be truly Man'd: For Ships like Animate Bodies, are more or less Strong, Vigorous and Nimble; just in peoportion to the Goodness or Vivacity of the Internal Agent: A Stout, Hearty, and active Ships Crew, is the very *Forma informans*, that gives Life and Spirit as it were to the Ship, to the *Guns*, to every Thing; It is these strike Terror in an Enemy, and Baffle the united Force of the Seas and Tempests; in vain reduce we Discipline into correct Rules, and second them with Artfull and Profound Stratagems: for if our Squadrons be fill'd up with *Grummetts*, or mere *Beef-eaters*; a well Flesh'd Enemy shall frustrate all our Preparations; and stoppy-turvy all our subtil Contrivances by a pure Dint of Courage; of Force, sans Rules, and maugre all the little petty Obstacles, that may be said to oppose them.

Of this undeniable Truth, we have repeated Instances every Campaign in *Flanders*; when our Troops shew, how little avail all those

those helps, which Skill can contrive, or precaution Dictate; for, in spite of Intrenchments, of Batteries, nay and of Superiority in Numbers: we dislodge, we worst, and rout the Enemy at every Onset. We cannot be so partial to our selves, nor so unjust to the *French*; as to deny, that it's Soley to this irresistible Spirit and Vigour, that we owe all our immortal Actions; for in every thing that relates, either to address, or Discipline, the Enemy equal, and perhaps surpass us. Now, if it's purely the Goodness, more than the Numbers of Men, that insures Success by Land; such, are much rather to be look'd for by Sea, where Strength and Skill, as well as Courage and Resolution are requirable; a Ship of War being too big and unmanagable a Machine, to be under the Conduct, and Government of Boys, and Novices, even in gentle Gales; and much more in high-running Seas, and turbulent Weather; when their Hearts within, are apt to sink, long before the Vessel.

It is therefore a Task, worthy our best enquiries, to find out the most proper, just, and conducive ways of Manning our Ships of War to the purpose; and of keeping them so without the Shame, and the Trouble, as well as Expence, attending Desertions. Now in this I flatter my self to have made some well grounded Discoveries, which I here offer to the consideration of those, who have both Power and Authority, to redress Errors of this Nature; and those we shall for Orders sake, reduce under Two general Heads, *viz.* Discouragements, and Grievances. *Of*

Of the Discouragements Incident in the Service.

UNder this Article, I cannot bring any one belonging to the *Navy*, above the Title of a *Subaltern*; for Captains are so far from lying under any such Circumstances, that it would be the greatest Injustice, as well as Ingratitude, for 'em barely to think so.

And little less would it be in Lieutenants too, where they have the luck to fall in with Generous Commanders; but as this peice of good Fortune is not the Lot of many, we shall therefore begin with those murmurs which these are apt to make, when they have Captains but of the Common Stamp, set to Reign over them.

And first, these People are very liable to complain that they are used very Scurvily; and that nothing besides that Inviolable Obedience they owe to Martial Discipline at Sea; binds up their Hands oft times from giving their Captains sensible Proofs they are Gentlemen: and not Born, nor sent there to be Slaves, nor Footmen. They have other complaints too, that are in common with the rest of the Ships Company, and which will appear obvious enough hereafter; without our needing to paint them forth in this place.

They are apt to grumble too, (the mercenary ones I mean,) that neither their pay, nor

nor their proper Shares in Prizes, bears any
 reasonable proportion to their Captains; who
 in some Ships, exceeds them Six to one in the
 former; and Twenty or Thirty to one in the
 latter: and all this by a standing Establishment.
 Their Pay, they say, is all that both
 they, and their Family have to trust to; and
 that 4 s. per *Diem* will not keep pace with a
 Gentleman Taylor: That if Sickness, or some
 malicious Bullet, or more malicious *Sea-God-*
dess, chance to throw him under the Hands
 of the *Surgeon*; there loose Corns even of half
 a Years gleaning, are at once swept away by
 the kind Hand that Cures them: Now this
 smarts the more they think, because their
Parsers make they say a large Revenue in com-
 parison; which is a strong inducement for
 them to fall in with those dextrous managers,
 in order to rake out a better maintenance from
 the Intrails of the *Sailors*. They say like-
 wise that it somewhat derogates from our
British Glory, to have the *French* to surpass
 us in their Establishment for Lieutenants,
 both in their Pay, and in their Prize shares;
 their Captains not exceeding them above one
 third in the latter, and their Lieutenants ex-
 ceeding ours 12 d. a Day in the other, with
 a handsome Entertainment to boot, found
 them by their Roy at the Captains Table;
 and what extreamly adds to all this, is the
 disproportionate rates, betwixt the *French*
 and us, upon all things necessary for the use
 of Man; 5 s. going farther in the Sea Port
 Towns with them, than Ten can in ours,
Communibus annis; for this Year of Dearth a-
 mong

mong 'em, is an unparallel'd Year of exception.

Another thing which makes these Gentlemen frequently mutter, is the disposure of Vacancies, some complain they have not right done to their Seniority, and others to their Deserts; the former generally are the most nettled, as having the strong pretensions of a stiffer Beard, and a more lasting Habitude to Flock Beds, and Salt Fate; and the Reputation of being such standing and constant retainers to her Majesty, that none could ever charge 'em with the ungentleman like Scandal, of having once been check'd out of the Ships Victuals.

The other sort pretend to I know not what of Birth, Breeding, Literature, and Moral Accomplishments, and cast in too perhaps some Acts of Supererogation; pusht on to 'em by the pure Principles of Honour; without the servile inticements of Bread. Now, if one of these, (as frequently he may) drop short of his Expectations, and is postpon'd till his Commission grow mouldy and more venerable with Years; he is apt to flag at once: But if Favour, more than Seniority, carry the Day against him; his resentments run high; he protests such a disposure of Places of Trust, and Honour, to be contrary to all reason; a down right reversing the Nature of Things, and Diametrically contrary to the Practice of her Majesty: That by a Conduct preposterous like this, the little D-- had been to this Day without his Flagg; and the Great M-- without his Truncheon; that

that the Great Seal had still wanted a Celebrated C--- and Junior B-- made to surrender up his Quill to Senior B-t-y; and in fine, all the Posts of Trust in the Nation had long ago been filled up wite Dotage and Decrepitude; and that while this Practice holds, there will never want a Brood of Commanders in the Navy; as proof to all Law, as the *Guns* in the Steerage are to the Sunday Admonitions of the *Chaplain*.

But as all this, and more, has never put the Government to any great Expende in pressing for Lieutenants, we shall at this time insist no farther about it, but leave these gaping Pretenders to their better Stars, and to a Prudent Care of their Persons; lest by a too prodigal exposing of 'em, they cut off their Entail to a Captains Commission, by the due course of Seniority.

A second Class of People in the Navy, that pretend to labour under Discouragements; are Volunteers, or, (as we mean it in this Place) Reformades; Gentlemen of Birth, and liberal Education: whom, not want, but Virtue and Honour has invited into the Fleet, to be sharers of all the Dangers, and partakers of all the Posts of Trust and Honour; which either Bullets, or Claps, may from Time to Time make vacant.

Now all such, whether under the Title of Midshipmen, Letter-Men, or otherwise, come under the Cognizance, and Jurisdiction of the Commander; who seldom fails to make them not a little uneasy, under his Government; for it is the Nature or Humour of most of these

these Mighty Czars, (intoxicated with the undeserved Honour and Power bequeath'd to 'em, to take an extream deal of *Russian* Pleasure, and Satisfaction, in humbling (as they call it) those Generous Spirits, and letting of 'em know what a Despotick Prince they have to Truckle to; thus under the pretence of teaching Gentlemen Soldier-like Obedience; they merely humour their own Sottish Pride and Vanity; as if a Person of Birth and Worth (as 'tis presumed these are) did not fully shew it, when proper Occasions offer'd; by preventing the Commands of the Captain, in readily and cheerfully thrusting themselves forward upon every Bold, and Daring Enterprize.

And yet such is the whimsey, and unaccountable Rigour of some bloated Chieftains, that to try the utmost extent of a Gentlemans Patience, and Compliance; will, at every turn, be Commanding them with a *Good Dam ye Sir*, upon pitiful Concerns; or Errands rather, very unbecoming their Birth and Character: and which might much better be effected by any common Blunt *Tar*; sprung from the Loyns of some swinging Drayman. Thus have I known the Son of a Duke, bluntly and designedly, Commanded to go Patroon of the Long-Boat, to fetch off some turns of Water, at the very Moment that some of his Honour'd Relations and Friends, (came not a little way) to Visit him: Now what less cou'd this Young Gentleman expect, upon his return Aboard, but (as a farther proof of his abject Submission) to be sent forward

forward on, to preside over the Shifters, and to see the Coppers thorowly well Scour'd, for the Benefit and Health of the Ships Company. A Stoick possibly would extol this Compliance, as a notable Pattern of Heroick Patience, a gallant Philosophical Self-superiority: But I dare say, the Fact it self, stampt a very levelling impression of this Young Peers Character, in the Minds of those that saw him, about so unbecoming a piece of Drudgery.

Can we suppose any one possessing the Spirit, and breeding of a Gentleman, will cherish any liking or inclination for the Service, when liable to have such unhandsome Commands laid upon him; or can we believe it possible in him, to entertain a due respect for such, who debauch their Power, and use it so Tyrannically; Tyrannically, I call it, since no Slavery is greater than impositions upon the Mind and Temper of a Gentleman, To be ty'd up to a Servile compliance with any Fantastick, Hare-brain'd injunction, which Pride, or Liquor, shall kindle in the Noddle of a Haughty Blunderbuss, is worse than Shackles. We all know that the Power of a Sea Commander, is well nigh Unlimited; and 'tis reason it should be so sometimes, and upon certain occasions; but that Captain, who cannot distinguish when, and where, his Power ought to be thorowly Exerted, and when to lie Dormant, is a Coxcomb, not fit to Command, and justly Forfeits his Commission by overstraining it. But what's yet more Offensive and Discouraging;

couraging, is, the Entertainment that Young Letter Men, and Reformades commonly meet with as to their Bed and Board: Her Majesty's Allowance is Just and Honourable; but yet will never be prevalent enough with Young Gentlemen, without Injunctions also were laid on Commanders, to allot them more Cleanly and Handsome Accommodations, than they generally meet with. Their Pay has the very least share in the Attraction, that draws them into the Navy; they know well, that this is generally so Dilatory, that had they no other Hutch to repair to, they might e'en Sing *Libera nos Domine*; but its the prospect of Preferment, or rather the Pleasant, Honourable, and Manly Entertainment they hope to meet with in so gallant a Profession, that draws them from their Rural Sports, and Down Beds; and therefore, when at their first Commencement, they meet with so fullen and regardless a Reception, as to find his Honours Taylor, Footman, or the more extraordinary Monk *Valler*, has more Conveniencies, and better Accommodation; it must needs strike a Damp upon the Young Gentlemans Spirits, and fill him with an utter Abhorrence to the Service; especially, when upon the back of this, he finds himself reduced to the necessity of fetching his own Peas and Pork; or Burgoo, and of Swabbing his own Platters; and after all, Herd in at Nights among a gang of sorry Scabs, the very out-cast of a Parish.

Now which way can we imagine, that a Gentleman

Gentleman, of any tollerable Figure; and Estate in the World; will abandon his Children, (Bred up both with Cost and Care) over to rugged Storms, and more rugged Commanders; and to the Inhospitable Entertainment of greazy Pork and Burgoo; and to Swing most vilely in some Lousie Birth, furrounded with the Noise and Stink of Rott-ye-Dogs, and Black-guard-Boys. Is it any prejudice to a Ships Company, to give Reformades cleanly Births, and decent Accommodation; or is it any Loss or Detriment to a Commander, to receive them at his own Table; the *Queens* Allowance does even more than answer the Expence: I know well, that these most Supream Heads may Retort here, that the Letter-Men (so call'd) in the Navy, are commonly made up of the Sons of Mechanicks, or of the *Menu*: We own it; but where lies the Blame? Wholly in the Captains: For it's evident, that some of 'em there are, who by acting like Gentlemen, never are, nor never will be, destitute of such to Accompany them; and without a prospect like this, no Person of Worth, that has a due regard for his Offspring, will blindly deliver them over to Debauchery and Misery.

We have it indeed, that in the Days of Yore, the most tender of Mothers would have blusht and been asham'd, to detain e'en her single and only Darling at Home, if her Country once beat to Arms; but, alas! this was in the Primitive Days of Ignorance, and among unhallow'd *Spartans*, Strangers to our
soft

soft and effeminate Erudition; and who thought their Unsanctify'd black Broth, a *Regalio* for a Monarch, and far surpassing all the Pottages in *Pontack's* Kitchen: Men that valu'd no Abilities, comparable to the endurance of Wets and Colds, of Hunger and Nakedness, and who March'd to the Battel with the same cheerful Airs of Musick, that our Modern Hero's do to the Serenading of Ladies, and Storming of Glass-windows. A Doctrine so Heathenish, wou'd in these our Days, be ten times more abhorred than Popery: Our Modes run now quite upon another Byass; and our Politicks turn upon that unerring Principle of Modern Philosophy, *every Man for himself, and God for us all.*

Upon this Foundation it is, that all under-board Play is become Fashionable, and the Men of Quality and of Fortune, (and who by that double Tye, are so extreamly above all others indebted to God, and their Country) are found such dear Lovers of themselves, and their second-selves their Children, that not one in a Thousand of 'em will permit, much less excite, their Sons to appear in Arms, in defence of their Honour and Birth-rights; unless Coax'd to it by more Expensive Inducements, than the Nation is at this Juncture, either capable or willing to advance: Therefore it is, that Captains should help to repair this Deficiency, not by their Purfes ('ware there) but by all the handsome and condescending ways, which Common Civility will always grant, and
which

which a Gentlemans Education and Character, does justly require; not to all alike, that were imprudence, but proportionate to their proper Deserts. Now this not common Honesty only, but the Interest of his Country requires it at his Hands; since it is from these, and such as these only, that we must hope for great Men, fit to be in due time, Illustrious Flags, and Heroick Patterns of Goodness and Justice, as well as of Courage to the rest of *Britains*.

And indeed we must not entertain so low an Opinion of our *Island*, as to believe the very Species of our Old Brittish Worthys are entirely extinct; nor yet fancy the *Planets* to have lost any thing of their Pristine Vigour of Influence: No, we have some Persons still living that may convince the most Devoted Adorers of Antiquity, that Nature is as Vigorous in her Productions as ever; and questionless we might see as many extraordinary Men shine now, as of Old, were they cherished with the like Care, and Perseverance; but how many promising *Genius's* does every Age bring forth, who for lack of the Protection, and Generous Bounty of some *Sidney*, or *Mæcenas* in Power, are nipt in the Bud; by either the Malignity of a too stinted Fortune, or the Baneful Hand of some spitefull Commander. I say, not that there are no Patrons upon Earth, but that Vice Monopolizes them: and that any *Tar-box*, that will but prostitute his Conscience, or Sacrifice his Credit, may Ensure his Reward for it; hence it is, that Recommendatory Letters,

ters, are now adays as plentiful as Guineas ; and a Fellow that can but Bully with a *Bell-Air*, shall have a dozen Fists subscribe to his Valour.

But certainly it is not the paltry Recommendations of a----that should take place in the promotion of a Volunteer ; for generally speaking, they are too strongly bent to their own selfish ends, and have alway a steady Eye to their own Interests, while they seemingly promote that of anothers ; An Old Pot Companion, a Mistress, nay a Tun-belly'd Landlady, shall gain upon some Captains, to become warm Sticklers in the behalf of some By-blow, whom he never saw perhaps ; or at least, had never any tollerable Experience of : We say, not that every Post is fill'd up in this manner, no more than all Goods are sold by Inch of Candle ; for a handsome *Stallion* can seldom fail of a Female Advocate to plead his Cause, and shove him into some vacancy or other. Money, tis granted, has generally the ascendant over desert, in almost all Pretensions ; but as Powerful as it is, it does not always gain its point : Many a Youngster, that has had no Substance, but what lay in his Back, has pusht himself into Preferment ; when Money'd Candidates have been dropt a Stern to another opportunity.

Now when Matters run thus, with so steady a Current, Wisdom advises Virtue and Honesty, to keep aloof from so preposterous a Confusion ; for nothing can be more cutting and insupportable, to a good and Gallant

lant Soul, than to see Ignorance and Baseness rise by such Scandalous Steps, whilst better Deserts are obliged to stand mute; and with a silent shrugg succumb, and calmly bear with all the pittiful and unjustifiable practices, which Avarice can dictate, or Oppression venture at.

What Reformades then can we expect will Launch forth into the Deep; when there's so very uninviting a Scene before 'em: some perhaps that labour under Want, and reduced to it by a profligate Debauchery, may go and fish for *Chimeras*, but a Youth of any tollerable Hopes, and good Parts, must have a Wonderful Stock of Christian Stoicism, to chuse to abandon the secure; and standing Advantages, which Law, Physick, Divinity, Trade, nay Agriculture it self, does propose to its followers; and venture their all, in so uncertain, and Fluctuating a Bottom as the Navy, which at best, affords no better an Annuity, even to a Lieutenant, than any of the other Professions can pick up in a Month perhaps.

Our wise Ancestors, to make amends for this, assign'd Martialists certain privileges, which none durst pretend to: Swords in those days were not seen dangling by the sides of *Cooks* and *Taylors*; nor were *Toothdrawers*, and *Operators* dignified and distinguished above the *Privy-Counsellor*; and then 'twas when all the Noble Frye, abandon'd the Worship of *Pluto*, and devoted their Lives and Fortunes with cheerful Hearts, and Emulating Spirits, to the Manly Toils of *Mars*.

and *Pallas*. But now when every thriving Dunce, and Fortunate *R---l*, may take place according to the Dimensions of his Purse-Strings; the *Camp* and the *Ocean* is renounc'd by all, but such as have more than common assurances of making a hasty Step into Preferment, and that in order to make a more hasty one into a Topping Fortune; and then adieu *Neptune*.

This Mushroom growth of some Men from a Dunghill, leads me (tho' by a too long digression) to the third and lowest Form of *Sea-Academians*, the *Mariners*. And certainly, if the more Refin'd and Polite part of the Nation are so rarely distinguished, what can the poor, but Jolly *Tar*, hope to meet with, who has neither Money, nor Friends perhaps, but a pair of good Hands, and a Stout Heart to recommend him? why verily, he may put them in ure, as oft as he pleases; and the more he does so, the less liable shall he be to Punishment: for he shall never (except upon certain Occasions) be Drub'd for well doing.

But what wretched Encouragement is this, for good Deeds to be rewarded barely with Impunity: and yet, even this is not alway to be expected neither: I have known a *Mid-ship-man* cashier'd from his Post; for declining to Swear stiffly, as an Evidence in an Affair; wherein every Man on Board, had been sensible of the Perjury. And this I take to be one of the Prime Detriments belonging to the Service; to wit, an unequal distribution in Rewards and Punishments.

How

How many Opportunities of Preferment offers to those hardy Sons of Industry, in being *Quarteers*, *Midship-men*, *Mates*, and so on; and how very few fill them up, according to their Deserts: And indeed they may, and do, in such Posts, but never enjoy the Wages due to 'em; that's assign'd to Captains, *Cooks*, *Footmen*, *Barbers*, *Burlers*, *Stewards*, or any other Impliment of the Commanders Lust, Luxury, or Avarice; such insignificant Scoundrels are qualified *Midship-men*, and what not, upon the Books, and receive the Wages; whilst those that actually Officiate, are only rated Able.

Now when an Active, Brisk, and skilful *Sailor*, finds Things run thus, which way can we suppose he will turn himself? why any way, and to any thing, rather than remain under such Scandalous usage; but yet above all, he will chuse to fall in (as often as he can possibly) with the Merchants Service: and this, not so much upon a meer humorfome inclination, but a choice in Judgment; for we all know, it is not barely the Freedom, or the good Peck met with there, that draws 'em; but 'tis mainly the Charming Prospect of becoming in a short Period, *Mate*, or *Gunner*, or the like Officer aboard those Vessels; by which, they ever after stand fair in rising to be Commander: which alway in this Service waits upon fair dealing, and good Behaviour; and tho' their Hopes may fall short of this sublime height, (for so they reckon it,) yet, even a *Mate* in a Merchant-man, is with them hugely preferable

ferrable, to any Preferment they can ever hope for in the Navy.

That their Hopes stand fairer in the one than the other, is but too evident, to such as give themselves a liberty in thinking; for suppose for instance there are 40000 *Sailors* in the Kingdom, about 5000 Trading Vessels, and 70 Ships of War in Yearly Employment; *communibus Annis*, a 40th part perhaps of these Men, will Voluntarily enter the latter, because they cannot but hope to fall in at once with some petty Office or other but the rest, if left to their choice will certainly pitch upon the Merchant Ships, because they have near 10000 Vacancies to invite them; and withall, no fear of any Land-lopers to supercede, when any of those already fill'd up, become void; which must needs happen very frequently among such a vast Number of Shipping: And as the Candidates in these, are extremly less Numerous than in Men of War, so can they wait with a more agreeable Patience, having such Wages and such entertainment as they commonly there meet with. Now, did our Navy give but any reasonable Prospect of such, nay, or but near such Encouragement as this is; we should not need to ferrer out Hands as we do, from every Rascally Hole and Corner of the *Island*.

It is not Men, but Means that the Nation is really wanting in; not Compulsive but Rational ones; such as may invite, not Impress Gallant Fellows into the Service.

We

We have Diamonds, nay, and many of 'em too, growing ainidst the mighty mass: *Britain* was ever fruitful of Thousands of Brave and Aspiring Souls, to be found, even among the Common Herd; whom the meer Hopes of riseing in the Navy won'd attract, but all such Expectations are dasht at once, with the doleful Stories handed to 'em, by those that have agen, and agen, try'd the Experiment. 'Tis all Castles in the Air, *Jack* cry they, thou must go Three Years Apprentice to the Keeper of *Newgate*: and be a tollerable Proficient in *Legerdemaine*, and Wheedle, before ever thou canst worm thy self into any thing there Boy.

I cannot agree with those Politicians who to remedy this, would have her *Majesty* to raise her Pay, to a parity with that of the Merchants. I readily own (as being the very Thing I here aim at,) that the *Sailors* in the Navy, should be at the least upon a Ballance, some way or other; but that can never be done this way, so long as the Money'd and Landed Men of the Island (the People by whom all Trade turns,) are found to have a stronger Appetite to Pride and Luxury, than to their paying of Taxes, or maintaining of Soldiers; till those darling Inclinations be transported, or thoroughly mortify'd, Merchants will always find a Bank surpassing that of the Exchequer.

Pity it is indeed but that those Sons of *Mars*, who so liberally part with their Limbs, and sugander away their Blood, to give the idle part of Mankind a quiet and

secure Possession of their Lives, and their Sensual enjoyments, were yet better consider'd, both as to their Pay, and their Immunities; for Death is by most thought to be but a very Unpalatable cold Dose, and asks for some very warm Cordial Vehicle, to expel those Gripes and Vapours, the Image of it is too apt to create: Something very toothsome there should be (besides *Cant* and *Sophistry*) to excite a Common Tar to part with his Fingers, Hands, and so forth, with the same cheerful indifferency, as with the parings of his Nails, or the supernumerary Hairs of his Valiant Whiskers.

I know well, that it is the avowed Opinion of some, that Sailors run greater hazards in the Trading Vessels, than in Ships of War: a Paradox which I believe no thinking Person will agree to; for Traders are under Convoy, and 'tis their own Faults generally, if ever they fall in the Clutches of an Enemy: Runners there are many, I own it, who seldom wait for such a Protection; but as their Wages there run high, so consequently, they well can bear with now and then a broken Venture. And yet even this too happens not often, because they have a good pair of Heels, and very good close Fights: So that when ever they fall short in the first, they have the last always to trust to: And shou'd they even fail in both, they know their Lot is *France*; where 'tis too well known, what tempting Offers are made to Prisoners, to enter their Merchants Service; not to be resisted by a poor Starving Captive.

I shall not enlarge, or carry this Point any further, as by making comparisons between the Health, Freedom, good Peck, &c. found in the one, and in the other Service, least I should give grounds to malicious Animadverters, to accuse me of Sinister Ends, in offering thus to depreciate the Encouragements already granted by Her Majesty; which Hell it self must own, have far transcended all those of Her Royal Ancestors: But yet at the same time we must imagine, that Mariners give their Thoughts the same Scope with the rest of Mortals; especially about things which fall every Moment within their View, and which therefore, we must believe them, to have a fuller and clearer Insight of, than Fresh-water Politicians, whose Brains being fill'd with nothing but Theories, and empty Supposes, are frequently led into palpable mistakes; and oftentimes conclude this and the t'other thing, to be an extraordinary great Encouragement; which in effect, proves but a very slender one, and sometimes just none at all.

I shall not, as a proof of this, Quote the *Regist'ring Act*, nor others of that Stamp, because they have been frequently Blown upon by others; 'twill be sufficient, to point only at the late *Act*, which concerns Prizes; which, to say it in a Word, has conferr'd the greatest Bounty, that ever was granted by any Monarch since the Days of the Great *Alexander*; and yet Experience evinces, this to have no way answer'd its design'd Ends, of filling our Squadrons with Gallant Volun-

teers, or Unprest Mariners; and that upon a double Account; as *First*, It is but the Lot of a few (of the many Ships that our Fleets are made up of) to Sail so well, or to be appointed such Stations, as to fall in with Prizes of any consequence; and consequently in these Ships only, can it be supposed, the Volunteers will enter: But then, *Secondly*, Those very Ships, that have this singular piece of Luck, have the concurring Misfortune, of being most grossly and notoriously Wrong'd in their Shares; which kindles in the Breast of a true bred Sailor, a stronger aversion to the Service, than if such a Bounty had never been granted. And this Consideration leads me to the Second Head, *viz.* The *Sailors Grievances*.

Of the Sailors Grievances met with in the Service.

AND here I beg my *Readers* Attention, because what's hitherto past, is reputed little more by me, than a meer Preamble to the following Remarks: For to speak it all in a Word, (and I'm fully perswaded, to have the concurring Voice of the whole Body of Tarrs, to join with me in the Assertion, *viz.* That) its the Hardships, or rather the Tricks, the Cruelties, and unfair Practises, laid, and impos'd upon them, by Officers of one kind or other; that is the chief and essential Cause, of that bitter and invincible

Aver-

Aversion, which the best and choicest of Mariners have for the Service.

And first, we will begin where we ended last, and that is Prize Money. This we must needs own carry's a powerful Charm, enough to overcome all other inconveniencies attending the Service, were it but as fairly Shar'd, as its honourably Purchas'd; for let the Prize be never so trifling, and the Dividends never so inconsiderable, yet its a Morfel, that will always Taste sweet to the Common Crew, because they constantly Pay the Dearest for it: so that what they get this way, may, in the strictest Sense, be term'd the Fruits of their Labour; for never was there Prize yet took, (*Galileons* only excepted) that Cost not the meaner Crew more Toil and Sufferance, than the Shares they usually met with, could Compensate: Whereas their Superiors, seldom are engag'd in any other Fatigue, but that of the Bram, in casting about for the most cunning Expedients, to circumvent even the justest Pretenders. Now when a Crew, after a warm and hazardous Brush, (and perhaps in Boats too, where the Captain is no way engaged) find their high Expectations of Mountains of Wealth, dwindle down to 5 or 10 s. in a Prize worth, perhaps, 10 or 20 Thousand Pounds: And when they see also, the most insignificant Scoundrels, such as Butlers, Stewards, and Taylors, to be made the chief Trustees, and consequently the chief Under-gainers, beyond any of the Combatants, it fills the whole Crew brim-full with Discon-

tent, and with an unalterable Resolution, of slipping off into the Merchants Service; where they are sure of meeting with better Encouragements than any thing to be had in the Navy can Counterpoise; and this too, without the Knocks, the Drubbings, and Slavery, attending the Service.

There are indeed, a sort of Tame Inhabitants in our *Island*, the *Casars*, the *Pompeys*, and *Fowlers* I mean, who can, with all the ardour of the most furious Hero's, give Chace for a whole Day after a Flying Enemy, to the hazard of their Necks and well-being; and yet after they have brought him to a Surrender, *sans Articles*, can calmly permit a Lagging two Legg'd Pursuer, to come up and seize upon the Prey; and yet tho' they have no *Magna Charta*, no League and Covenant, no Claim of Right to insult upon, this Despotick Monarch of a Parish, puts them not off with a Flap of a Fox Tail; but in lieu of a dry Hare, returns them an Ox, and a cherishing Spit in the Mouth, and clap on the Back, into the Bargain. Now when a Practice any way like this, is met with in the Navy, we shall leave off Catching of Men, and send our Press Ketches a Fishing for Herring.

A second Grievance, Cousin Germain to the former, is the thrusting Men upon a Number of *extra* Employ's, without ever allowing them any just Consideration for 'em; no not where the Queen does actually grant it; now this alone is enough to provoke any Sensible Fellow, to a deep Disgust; for Mariners

riners are not Brutes, they know well what's their proper Duty in the Navy, and when it is that these *extra* Labours are meer Impositions; and many of 'em, nay all of 'em, know full well the Commanders indirect Gains in such Affairs; and it is this as much as the great Toil, that incents them: For Sailors can, even for a trifling Gratiuity, be brought to undergo, abundance of such supernumerary Tasks, even with Alacrity; but to be drove to 'em, and kept close at 'em, as if the Welfare of a Kingdom depended on it; and after all, to receive no Consideration, no Acknowledgments, but to be made the meer Servile implements of Gain and Avarice, is what provokes abundance of 'em to leave the Service, even to the Loss of their very Beings, as well as Pay: Thus have I known 4 or 5 at one Clap, Desert the Ship, in places where they had nothing to fly to but Wild *Indians*, and more frightful Woods and Forrests: And this minds me of another particular, *viz.* that such Rascally Practices, are no where more used than there, where the Hands ought to be the least exposed, either to Heat or Labour; as in our *West Indies*, and elsewhere, what Sickneses and Distempers, does not such a Usage bring amongst them; and especially when to all this, we add the scandalous Custom of Trading with Negro's, which, in certain places, is as familiar to the Ships of War, as 'tis to the *Affrican Company*. It were Impertinent almost to enumerate at large, all the servile and needless Toils, that these
honest

honest Souls are pusht upon in remote Countries; but indeed 'tis no wonder, that Oppression should shine in its *Meridian* heighth; at so far a distance from all Redress and Succour; and it is as little to be admired, why some Season'd *Capitano's*, are found so Zealous of continuing in such Stations, where, without the hazard of broken Bones, they can Yearly gather in a Lords Revenue; and have, upon their return, a glorious Account of *extra* Expences, to give in to the Pay-Table, for *Liems*, that either never were in Nature, or the majority of them effected, by the Carpenters, Sail-makers, Coopers, Riggers, &c. aboard, and who perhaps, had little more than an old Song, and Drubs, for their Labour.

I shall not here take Notice, of the scandalous Practices in Transportation of Merchandizes, to and from the *Levant*, *East* and *West Indies*, *Straits*, *Caribbees*, *Jamaica*, *Virginia*, *Newfoundland*, *Russia*, *Norway*, &c. nor now subject a Ship is, by being so Pester'd, to fall an easie Prey to the Enemy; but we may, and ought, to Remark these things, so far as they relate to the Ships Company, whom such Mechanick Practice reduces oftentimes to great Hardships, for want of a due flowage for Water and Provisions; but above all, engages them in abundance of slaving Labour, nay, and oftentimes exposes them to Ruin, in case they fall in with an Enemy; for what deplorable Shifts are not the Sick and Wounded reduced to, for want of Room, to Accommodate 'em at such

a conjuncture : Thus have I seen a Ship so Lumber'd up, that the very Cabins in the Cockpit, and all round there, (where the Sick and Wounded usually repose) has been quite Choak'd up with Brandy, &c. now in what a lamentable Pickle had the poor, nay and rich Sinners too, been in, had a Shot pierc'd through into those Apartments, (a thing not uncommon) and staved the Cask, and so set all in Flames there, for nothing could prevent it, in a place where Lights are obliged to be always Burning : And granting this had never happen'd, yet, where could 20, or 30, or 40, or 50, Sick and Wounded Men, have disposed of their Carcases, where there was not place enough left to Swing a Cat in.

But this being but Temporary, does in some degree mollify the Crime, and renders it less enormous than another Practice met with; which as it is Universal, becomes the more Fatal to the Service, and that is an unequal and unjustifiable Severity : I pretend not here to Harangue against a Cat of Nine-Tails, or to prove a Cudgel an unlawful Weapon ; Severity is reasonable, when justly plac'd ; for 'tis the very Life of all Discipline : But a well grounded Correction, is the least of an Officers Thoughts ; Pique, Revenge, Rage, Drink, every thing but Reason, shall again and again, hurry on a young Hair-brain'd Jack-Pudding, to a Thrashing the Fellows like Dogs or Stock-fish.

We shall not at this time run to *Westminster-Hall*, to Consult the Justice and Equity of

of such a Discipline, but take it for granted, that the Law Military, takes place with equal Force by Sea, as Land ; but yet this same Law, all Rigid as it is, supposes us Subjects, not Slaves ; and Captains to be Commanders, but not Grand Seigniors ; and though it turn wholly upon Punishments, not Rewards ; and keeps a Constant watch upon Criminals, without any regard to Well-deservers ; yet it Lashes not meer Inadvertencies, nor enjoyns Maims for Faults, that wou'd be much better mended by Admonitions. To offer here any Examples in this kind, met with in the Navy, would appear too Romantick for Modern Incredulity, and brand us with too Scandalous a Character, in the Eyes of all the Civiliz'd part of Mankind : In fine, we may well conclude, that Sailors feel oftentimes more than Flea-bites, when they chuse to jump Over-board, and fly to Old Nick for Sanctuary.

Now what makes these Pickled Severities smart the more, is, the partial Distribution of them : *Ferre quam sortem patiuntur omnes nemo recusat* : No one grumbles at his Lot in an Engagement, nor Curseth the Bullet that Unlegs him ; because all on Board, were alike exposed to the Misfortune : But here 'tis quite otherwise, and this Man meets with Lenity to a Fault, whilst another is skinn'd for a Trifle. Now what Effects can we suppose such a procedure to work upon a Ships Crew ; some, perhaps, it may transmute to pliant grov'ling Animals ; but other-some it renders Desperate, and the Majority Deserters ;

serters ; for as they are not always Shackled, nor Chained to an Oar, like a Gally Slave, but have frequent Occasions of being sent, and more frequent Opportunities of slipping a Shore ; so when they are there, no Considerations, no Pay, no Prize Money, no hopes of Preferment, no not even Hemp it self, can stop their Career ; but gone they are for ever, so long as either Wit, Address, or Money, can do it.

But this is not all, 'tis common with Officers to gratify not their Anger and Spleen only, but their Avarice too, in the punishing of Sailors : Lord ! what a Witty contrivance it is, to Doom a Fellow to Live a whole Week upon Bread and Water, when perhaps he's already reduced so low, that his very Allowance is barely enough to keep Life and Soul together ; indeed one would think, Sailors dealt with Enchantments, and were some of the Brood of Antiquitated *Knight Errants*, who could Topsy-turvy Ships and Windmills, without the least Crumb of Peck to support them. I know, that the plausible Pretence for such a punishment, is, that its of all others, the most Sensibly felt and regarded : Yes it is so by the Officers, who ingross it to themselves ; for tho' they Rob *Pe. er*, 'tis not with any design to Pay *Paul*, for they never Discount with the Queen for Provisions thus stop'd from the Sailors Bellies : This Punishment is also the usual one, inflicted on those who are negligent in their Night Watch. I am far from offering to plead in Favour of this Neglect ; 'tis a Fault
for

for certain, nay, and in some Cases a very dangerous one; but yet Times and Circumstances, are always to be Consider'd; for some, when Call'd, or Muster'd, may chance to be off the Deck, by a meer Accident, or a Compulsive necessity, others Needlessly, and others again, Wilfully and Habitually: Now ought we to bring all these upon a Level, and make them alike Criminals? No, sure, their Punishment should be proportion'd to their Guilt; and this too, by some more rational method, than loss of Victuals; which as it is Destructive to the Mens Healths, and their Vigour, so neither does it answer the pretended End; because Fellows that make a common Practice of being off their Watch, generally take care to be at Hand, when their Call comes; and then down they Pop again, and so save their Bacon.

But this Article directs me to another of the like Stamp, *viz.* Chequing the Men out of their Provisions when at Anchor, or in Harbour, and have leave to go Ashoar: I do not say this is a Grievance to the Sailors, (because they go by Choice) but it is such to the Queen, and to the Nation; for 'tis Notorious, that not a Tenth part of the Cheques upon Mariners are Discounted for, and consequently, not a Doit saved to the Kingdom by it: The Sham Ink that Clerks of the Cheque in this, and perhaps many other Cases, make use of, is a Cheat, that's no Secret at this time of Day; every little Scribbling Knave knows the Trick now, and can wipe out a Dash of the Pen so cleverly, as

not

not to leave the least Tincture of Ink upon the Paper : And besides, it is but once a Week they do Muster, in which interspace, the Purser claws it going; infomuch, that I have known of these Sparks have the Impudence to make a Demand (in Petty War-rant) of fresh Provisions for 240 Men, when there has not been actually 40 in in the Ship, from the one Muster Day to the other.

Now how much more advantageous had it been, both to the Men and to the Service, to have let this Provision fall into the Hands of those that have but little besides, rather than be sunk in the Pockets of half a Score Confederated Cormorants, that are neither Friends nor Allies to the Government.

None, in my poor Opinion, should be Chequed out of their daily Bread, but such only as have been prickt Run, or Dy'd, in the Service. I know that those, who would be loosers by this reasonable piece of Charity, would be apt to exclaim, and protest it a most Unconscionable thing, to allow Men Dyet who are not actually upon Duty : It were well indeed, could we make this Logick pass Current throughout the Navy, and so forth ; Lord ! what abundance of Pence would it bring into, or (which is the same thing) hinder from fallying forth of the Treasury : How many Three and Four Pounds *per Diem*, would it not save ? while Mr. such a one, and Squire such a one, are Solacing themselves at their Country Mansions, or a Drenching their Spleens at the *Bath* or *Epsom*. But while such Gentlemen meet
with

with no diminutions (which they well might bear with) in their Salleries, by their *Non-residences*, it is but reasonable, that a poor Tar have his compleat Annual allowance of Provisions, which (as I take it) is as much a part of his standing Wages, as the very Money he receives at the Pay-Table.

-As there are more ways of Pilfering than down-right cutting of Purfes, so some there are in the Navy, who when they cannot snap at Provisions by the Lump, will, rather than stick out, exercise their Talents at small Game; thus Ships in the *Channel*, or in *Road-steads*, where Her Majesty allows twice a Week fresh Meat, in lieu of Salt Provisions; some Gentlemen there are found such Humble Sinners, as to cut off the $\frac{1}{4}$ or or at least the $\frac{1}{5}$ of this Allowance, and ingross it to themselves. Now how strangely would our *Virtuosi* be deceived, were they to draw Conclusions of Mens particular Professions, or Callings, by their Dispositions; for what Philosopher is there, who would not strait imagine, such Sparks were design'd by Nature to manage not a Sword, but a Yard-wand, by their having so lousie an Itch after Cabbage: Well, less Reputation will serve these long Wigg-Men, than a Tinker; and they want nothing but a Begging Countenance, to qualify em, in the woful Days of Peace, for a Station in *Moor-Fields*, or *Common-Garden*. To be Serious, one wou'd wonder that ever such sordid Spirits cou'd put off to Sea, and lodge their Hopes, in the Two most fickle Elements in Nature, when

when they might ha' reach'd to their Mighty Aims, by a much surer, and more Compendious Road on the *Terra firma*; for there is scarce a *Toothdrawer*, or *Rat-catcher*, but what at the Years End can ballance Accounts with them.

What you *Pimp* crys one, compare ye me to a *Tooth-drawer*; saith Mr. *Cokkade*, the Comparison is not wide at all, for 'tis much the same to Rob a Man of his Teeth, or of his Victuals. But where agen is the Necessity for all these Sharping Gentlemen, have ye not the same standing Allowance with others? and is not your Pay vastly more, tho' your Toils are Extreemly less, than that of a Common *Sailor*? ay, but these are not Gentlemen; no, nor none else my Friend, that Act not Honourably: He that cannot acquiesce with even any Pay the Queen shall assign; but basely stoop to sneaking Practices, to enlarge his Annuity; is a poor Mercenary Wretch, and unworthy of any Pay, or any Commission.

Now, if *Scarlet* and *Feather* can offer at such Strokes at our very Doors, what will they not flie at in remoter Regions? There indeed they make a Noble Game of it, all of 'em, from even the *Altamault Eagle*, down to the Rascally *Buzzard*. Thus have I known a little Fellow, fetch in 30 or 40 *s. per Diem*, from one Species of Provisions only, and that in no overgrown Vessel neither; but as these kind of Operators have learnt the Skill of skinning a Flint, so they mount yet higher, and pick somewhat out of even
want

want it it self, and can raise Contributions upon empty Bellies; for as Starving admits of no Parley, but condescends to any Articles; so the Meagre *Tars* will grant any thing in reversion, their short Allowance, nay their Wages too, for any small Pittance of present Coin that shall be offer'd; and offer'd it always is, at such a Critical Conjunction, as to warrant it's circulating into the Pockets from whence it first came, in the short Period of Three or Four Days after its departure.

As for the Salt Provisions, I know 'tis pretended, there can be no Cheat in it: because Cask'd up in ready-cut pieces, before it comes on Shipboard: It is so indeed, but no body I hope supposes Kn--y to be a meer *Sea-weed*, that grows no where but on Salt-water; it spreads every way, grows under all Roofs, even without watering; and oft times is found Flourishing under the baneful Tree of T---n: else how comes it, that *Sailors* sometimes Mancounter with such unaccountable pieces, that should one of 'em chance to drop from their Platters (in descending the *Main hatch way*, t hey might as well hunt for a Needle in a Bottle of Hay; as hope to grope out their Flesh again. What a comfortable sight is it in a far-away Voyage, where Men have liv'd long on short Allowance, and where there is no *Cooks Shops*, nor no *Bomb-boats* to repair too; I say, to see 20 or 30 *Sailors* under these Circumstances, attending at the Captains *Cabbin-door*, to shew his Honour half a score pieces of
Meat

Meat, assign'd for the Subsistence of 30 Men, which Two alone could eat up very roundly for its Bulk, but yet scarce a Dog touch it for its Goodness: It is this, and such as this, and not the *Clime*, nor such like imaginary *Chimaras*, this hurry's in Sicknes and Mortallity among Ships of War; which Merchantmen are utter Strangers to in those Regions. I dont say, that this is the sole cause of Distempers in those Countrys; for a too close restraint has some helping Hand in it, and this is another Grievance, which they too generally labour under.

While Ships are out at Sea, as there is no ground for Complaint, so is there no freedom then sought after, but when they are fast Moor'd, and have nothing in hand, but what half, nay perhaps a quarter of the Crew can manage by turns; in such a Case, to keep them pent up for whole Months together, is what they hate like Death; it smells so much of *Newgate*, has so much the shew of a Prison: that these poor pounded Cattle, will leap over all Considerations, and in spite of every Thing, Run, or Swim on Shore, even meerly to convince their Wives and Children, that they are not what they take them to be, Slaves and *Goal-birds*.

None will deny that a too great License herein, has, or may have fatal Effects sometimes; but still there is Reason in all things, and the most are not to be as 'twere chain'd aboard, like a Slave to a *Gally*; because some few abuse the Liberty that has been freely granted them, for by a parity of Reason, all the

the World shou'd at this rate be immur'd every Evening after Sun set, because forsooth a parcel of loose People make that the proper time for Burglary and Lewdness. It is but now and then a Man we meet with, that has an utter aversion to the sleeping in a whole Skin; or that prefers the Childish Game of Push-pin beyond a Diadem: even so, 'tis but here and there a Sottish Scoundrel of a *Sailor*, that will, when ashore, humour his Folly to the loss of his Pay, and all future hopes of Preferment; but the Truth is, the ground of all such Extravagancies springs not from any settled disposition, but forecast; they consider how hard this freedom which they now have in their own hands is to come by; and this Thought pushes them upon the other extream, and nothing less than a downright Surfeit of the Shore will satisfy 'em; and then in truth they are satisfy'd, and will be as ready to return aboard again, as you wou'd have 'em.

Now if bad and pinch'd Allowances in Provisions, and a too close restraint, render *Sailors* Infirm and Sickly; (which by most people is reckon'd a grievance,) so when Distempers have throwly laid hold upon 'em, they too too frequently prove Mortal: not so much through the immediate Hand of Providence, (to whose charge *Quacks* lay most of their Murthers) but of the Doctor; for with this Goodly Title are *Surgeons* Dignified in the Navy; not but that we have able enough Fellows of their Profession; but its in their Professions only, and not in their Per-

Performances. 'Twould carry me too far, to follow this Article to its utmost; we shall therefore at this time reduce it to this one Assertion, (as true as any Aphorism in *Hippocrates*,) that where one Common *Tar* has been cut off by a Cannon-Ball, at least Two have been swept away, by either Ignorant, or Infamous Practices.

True it is indeed, that not a few there are, who Troop off purely through a tedious and vile Imprisonment in the Enemies Countries; which adds one more to the Hardships which *Sailors* are liable too, viz. Their long, long Detension in *France* when taken Prisoners: This, you will say, cannot well be prevented by us, yes, I answer it might well be done, did but our Prize-catchers, as fairly detain those that fall into our Hands, till such time as an exchange were made; but so far are we from this, that Care is taken (for so I may phrase it) to put the Enemy a-Shore, or a-Drift, upon any Spot, purely to avoid a thorow Detection of their Clandestine Practices in the sharing of Prizes. Thus have I seen 20 or 30 *French* at a time, whipt away upon some Barren wild *Island*, (a Capital Crime by Law) without the least consideration had to our own Men; so many Thousands whereof lie Rotting in *France* for lack of Redemption: It is therefore by this Conduct, that our *West India-Colonies* and *Plantations*, are so everlastingly infested with *Privateers*; for the *French* love alway to ply there most, where they hope for the speediest Freedom: which there they meet with in a
trice

trice, and so are ready to begin again *de Novo*. We acknowledge that the late Encouragement wherein Five Pound a Head is granted for every Prisoner taken, or kill'd after the Commencement of a Fight, may in some Degree prevent that pernicious Practice, but it is but in some Degree only; for in Prizes of any considerable Value, they will still continue the old trick, reserving one or two perhaps of the most Insignificant of the Prisoners, to serve as Tools toward Condemnation of the Prize, and of being evidence to the rest of their Numbers.

Another Rascally Practice, very current in the Navy, is either to Wheedle, or to Drub Fellows, (good for nothing Fellows to be sure) into Idleness; a Strange Paradox this as any our Worthy *Chaplain* has hitherto thought of, and is yet much more Demonstrable, than any he has to offer. For how many are there in the Fleet, whom the *Boat-Swains*, the *Gunners*, and the *Omnium Gatherums* have Articl'd with, for the security of their Bones, and of their Quiet: And thus these poor senseless Conjurers, sell themselves to these Devils at Pay-day, (by some under-board Assignments) to enjoy in the interim a little transitory Lasciviousness, and the short liv'd Pleasure of laughing at their Drub'd Companions, who are ever and anon obliged to double Duty for them. And this minds me also of another point, which tho' I do not Baptize with the Epithet of a Grievance, is yet for certain a very ill Practice, and highly prejudicial to the Service; and that

that is the binding of Servants to Sea Officers by Indenture, for Seven, nay perhaps twice Seven Years together; for these Creatures thus Kidnapt, (for I can call it no better) finding themselves turn'd to a meer property, and fetter'd to Slavery, by a simple piece of Paper, very wisely break their Chain, by making an Elopement a Shore: from whence, away they scour strait into the Merchants Service upon some Foreign Trip, where they rarely shall be heard of in half again. And from hence we may gather, what the late fine Project of *Grummetts* would amount too, besides the pestilential inconvenience of pestering up a Ship, with such Swarms of Nasty, Stinking, Blackguard-Boys.

Another, and that no small Grievance, as I think, is the drilling off Payments of Wages, nay, and of Prize-Money too: It must be acknowledged, to the Glory of the present Government, and to the Honour of the Senate, and Kingdom in General; that never were Funds more cheerfully granted, nor more readily given in, than in the whole course of this War, and yet to the wonder of all petty Politicians: 'Tis thought unaccountable, how it comes, that *Sailors* meet with so little of it; and that many of 'em have such postpon'd Demands, as of Two or Three Years standing. This appears yet more strange, when we consider that the very promptest Payments in the Navy is but once a Year; with a Six or Eight Months Dues, kept constantly in Arrears. Now were I Clerk, or somewhat higher at the

C

Board,

(40)
—Board, and had a thorow perusal of the Books there, some very pondrous reasons might perhaps be found out; but wanting such necessary Torchlights, I must e'en leave my Reader in the Dark, as to this particular; yet cannot but say here, that its a very great pity to find Honest but Starving *Tars*, sent Twice, nay Thrice an end to the *West-Indies*, (as some actually now are) without meeting one *Sous de L'argent* in the one *Hemisphere* or the other. Now a common *Sailor* under all these aforesaid Circumstances, must have a much better Stock of Philosophy, and Christian Resignation, than what either our Colleges or Pulpits can furnish out, calmly to Acquiesce, and stick fast to the Service.

I shall take no notice here, of the Tricks upon *R-s* and *Q-s*, the non-performances in Relation to the Registering Office, with others of the like Nature; because, as they have already been frequently trump up by other Observators, so they cannot but lie very Obvious to People of thought, since poor unthinking Orphans and Widows most palpably feel 'em.

It is time now to pause, and take a breathing; let us then my most patient Reader, ruminate a little, and make a few Candid Reflections upon what has been said, without being too much prepossess'd, in prejudice to the most deserving part in the Navy; mistake me not, I do not say that any of these lower Frye, can stand singly in Competition with their Officers; who questionless by far transcend them in Birth, in Breeding, in
Parts,

Parts, and in Conduct: But all these fine Qualities are proportionably consider'd by her Majesty and the Government, and they have their due Reward; whereas the Common Crew, that bear the whole Burthen, and heat of the Day, meet with but very slender Encouragements; and a very heavy Stock of Grievances to overweigh 'em.

And believe me, it is this, and nought but this, that disables us by Sea, and renders our Shipping weak and Contemptible; and at every turn to fall a Shameful Prey to the Enemy. Had we even the God of War, he cou'd not manage a Ship by himself alone, and the greatest Hero upon Earth, cannot Fight her well without tite and willing *Sailors*. We are not therefore to wonder at the frequent Losses we have had of our Ships of War, of almost all Sizes; since its the deficiency in our Hands, and not in our Hearts, that is the true cause of it. 'Tis a very false calculation we commonly make of our mighty Strength at Sea; by forming an Idea of our Power there, from the Bulk and the Numbers of the Vessels, without considering that its not the Number of *Guns*, or of *Tuns*, but of Stout and able *Sailors*, that renders a Ship Formidable: Without these, she lies at the Mercy, not of the *French* only, but of every Gust that bloweth: Storms, and Tempests, are oft times a more terrible Enemy to deal with by Sea, than a *Toulon* Fleet; especially in Ships of the first Magnitude, where a whole Ships Comany are sometimes found too few to keep her above Water;

especially if the Crew bear no proportion to the Vessel, as well for Goodness, as Numbers.

- Our *British* Spirits, are as bold, and Enterprizing as ever they were known to be, in the Flourishing days of Queen *Elizabeth*; and many such there are actually in our Squadrons, but alas, are too much intermixt with Scoundrels. And yet notwithstanding this unequal Composition, they can be brought to do Wonders; which can never be hop'd for from a meer selfish Commander: for those very Motives, those pitiful Principles that excite him to the enlarging of his Fortune by sneaking Practices, will naturally and perforce, incline him also to preserve it, by a poor, and faint opposition in an Engagement; where he Fights, not for his own Honour, or the Glory of his Nation; but just enough to secure him from a-- and thats all: Whereas scarce ever was it known, that the Body of a Ships Crew gave out, when once they were fairly enter'd; nay, if ever it was once found that they flag'd, or declin'd the most desperate undertaking: It has certainly been Spleen, and not Fear, that has withheld them; for we own indeed, that even the best of *Sailors*, in the heat of his resentments, (of his very just resentments) will swear once, and a Thousand Times, that he'l never fight more; yet bring him but once into play again, his native warmth and resolution, shall in spite of all his past Vows, hurry him on to Action; and he shall fall too, with that eager Ardor, and hearty

heartly good will, as if all was to be his own he fought for.

Now if upon a pure bent of Soul, a true *Brittish Tar* can, and will perforce as 'twere, do this, maugre all past Wrongs and Drubbings; what Wonders, what superlative Wonders wou'd not such a People be brought to effect, were they us'd but like themselves, and like what they merit, even setting apart all other Gratnities, had they but the standing and establish'd Laws, and Injunctions made good to 'em; I dare be bold to say, that no Nation, nor Men upon Earth, cou'd, upon equal Terms, dare to face 'em. There is a certain dareingness of Spirit in a *Brittish* Mariner, proper and natural, as is that of our Mastiffs, pardon the Comparison; a kind of Manly haughtiness, which eminently distinguishes him from the rest of our Men. A Courage so inherent, so strongly seated, that I have actually seen a Ships Crew, tho' notoriously wrong'd the very preceeding Day; yet one, and all, run, and beg, and stickle to make one of the Number, to go upon a fresh Skirmish in Boats; (where but a part of 'em could be concern'd,) and those that were excluded, have appeared more nettled at this undesigned affront, (as they thought,) than ever they seem'd to be, for the most palpable injustice.

But a Zeal like this, is not very common in our Navy; nor can we reasonably expect it, without the proper Means: There are its true, very many good *Sailors* to be found, but yet there are abundance more may be

made so; for good Mariners grow not up like Mushrooms, at once, without any Care or Culture: It requires address, as well as pecuniary Encouragements, to the forming of them, as much as it does Scholars or Soldiers: It is morally impossible, nay, and its naturally impossible too, to have a Brave, Active, Skillful, Resolute body of *Sailors*; without Just and Generous, as well as understanding Officers. The Virtue, Equity, Sobriety, Generosity, and Gallantry of a Commander, does as natural produce Love, Respect, Obedience, Activity, Resolution, Health, Quiet, Cheerfulness and good will in the Common Crew: even as Law and Impartial Justice does of Power, Strength, and Happiness to a Civil Government. I could here give a notable Instance of this kind in the Navy; one whose Example makes it indisputable, that it wholly lies in a Captains Power, to have alway his Complement, nay, and double his Complement; without ever a Prest Man among 'em. But so it is, the Worthy beat the Bush, while Rascals run away with the Hare. Some Mens bare Character and Reputation, raise them Hands enough; whilst the wretched Practices of others draw 'em off, to fill up their shameful Desertions: and yet notwithstanding fresh desertions, and Deaths, and Fatalities, thins them again as much as ever; and no wonder, for 'tis for Slaves only to undergo both Wrongs, and Whipping together, with an abject Submission; but Men that have breathed *British* Air, and ne'r yet tugg'd
an

an Oar in a *French* Gally, can never be brought to embrace such Inhumane Usage; Bound they may be, but Struggle they will always, either after Revenge, or Liberty, even to the hazard of their Lives, as well as Fortunes.

And here lies the Error in the Conduct of Officers, to Wit, they do not thorowly consider and distinguish, the proper Temper and Disposition of a Mariner; but as they meet with abundance of little Scabs, and Pick-Pockets in the Service, they from thence very hastily conclude the whole Crew to be all of a Litter, and fit for nothing but the Whip and the *Bastinado*: Whereas 'tis evident, to all that are acquainted with the Sea-Port Towns, and Places of Commerce by Water, that the Youths, who follow the Sea by choice, and not compulsion, (and whom therefore we properly call Sailors) have commonly their Rise from Honest, Creditable, and Substantial Parents; who have allow'd them, even from their Infancy, Good and Useful Education, and bred them up neither to Beggary nor Drubbing; consequently, being grown to Maturity, and tasted the Sweets of Trade and Plenty, Wrongs and ill Usage, becomes as disagreeable to them, almost as to a Gentleman: He's Free he knows, because he has a Calling will fetch him in a Living at all times, in one Quarter of the World or other; and therefore, rather than not enjoy some small harmless Freedom, with that settled and comfortable Subsistence the Queen allows, he'll away, 'tis

no matter whither, so long as he carries both his Hands along with him.

Which way then can we, with Reason expect, that a Disposition like this, can succumb; and servilely Truckle, to all the base Tricks that Oppression would impose, and calmly endure all the vile Sufferings, that Pride, Passion, and Cruelty can exert: Gaul'd he must needs be, as well with the one as the other; and it is these things provoke him to Desert, without the least tincture of fear of the Harms attending Engagements; they are more sensible of their Wrongs, than of their Wounds, and can pierce through Fire and Flames, to avoid Ingratitude and Baseness.

Far am I here, from offering to level Aspersions against any particular; and as far from designing to render us, in these Practices, singular, beyond all the World besides: No, I'm perswaded, that even our *Gallick* Enemies, as extraordinary Disciplin'd as they are, equal us almost, for, I dare not say altogether, in these kind of Sufferings: But must their Faults palliate ours, when the Peace, the Security, the Grandeur, and Glory of the Noblest Island in the World, depends so extreemly upon it.

I matter not therefore the Censures of any little squinting Critick, that may offer to pervert me, since I am confident, that no Man of Sense and Honesty, will believe this any way tending to Lampoon the Government: I point at nothing but what's Common and Visible to the most Careless Spectator;

tor; speak only the Language of Experience, and even of Sacred Majesty it self; for how frequently did the late King, and how much oftner has our Good and Glorious Princess, told us, of the shameful and destructive Immoralities, now reigning among us; and when such Harangues come from the Throne, 'tis easie to apprehend where they are level'd; not at the low humble Shrubs, that soon are laid low by the smallest Blast of Authority, but its against the Tall-Cedars, who with stiff Senseless Pride, stand Proof to every Wind that Bloweth: Men, who Burlesque the very Laws they Promote, and by their irrational Practices, render all Observances of them contemptible, even to the very Persons by whom they live in Luxury and Ease: Yes the *Plebs* can, and will follow their Bell-Weathers, in the most dirty Roads they can take, and will closely Dog after their Heels, even over Rocks and Precipices; and so by this fashionable imitation, give their Ring-leaders a more than bare Titulary Right, to their being their Worthy Representatives.

But was it ever found, that a State became Great, or a People Happy, by such a Conduct? Or was it by such Steps, that our troublesome Neighbours rose to their once formidable Grandeur? No, if we may believe their very Enemies, no where were Laws more duly observ'd than in *France*; where a Veneration was paid to a simple Edict, even from the Blood Royal, down to the Peasant: Consanguinity it self, could never hope for a Sanctuary against the open Breach

of Regal Commands ; Trick and Subterfuge might perhaps bring 'em off upon certain occasions ; but no Law to be mitigated in their Favour. And what Cause can we have recourse to but this, as the Source of all that Power, that has made such Noise in the World, and Reign'd so long invincible ; for it was never owing to any Personal Bravery in that Prince, supream beyond all other Mortals : No, we have had, and yet have, Hero's of our own Growth, far transcending him in that particular ; but will this particular alone maintain an Empire ? Courage indeed with strength, may do somewhat in *Barbary*, or *Russia*, in Woods or Forests ; but they are of small effect in a Civiliz'd Country, unless accompany'd with abundance of other Co-natural Virtues. Without Justice, there can be no true Discipline, no Love, no Followers ; and without these, *Hercules* himself can do nothing Great, nothing Worthy ; but Porter-like, cleanse Stables.

Malice it self by this may see, I am far from even thinking, much less from speaking irreverently, of the happy Constitution we live under ; but its no Treason, I hope, to wish us yet more Happy, or to point at a few Defects, whose Amendments wou'd, in a great measure, tend to the making us so. And as a Discovery like this, is very Obvious and Vulgar, and consequently inherits no thanks ; so neither (as I presume) will it be thought, to cast any Cloud upon that impartial Head, who has the present Guidance of the Navy : 'Tis Omniscience alone, that
can

can be every where, and penetrate all Things; the best of Patriots, tho' endowed with the brightest Parts Humanity is capable of, has yet, nor can have, but a single, and a very circumscrib'd Ubiquity, which asks for secondary Helps, nay, and frequent Informations; and these too, to be well laid, and well concerted. We may know perhaps, very exactly, the loss of some Shipping, or the gaining of a Victory, in all their minutest Circumstances, by even common Post-Letters; but there's no true knowledge of the State of the Navy to be had, by Cursory Intelligences; nor no reading of Commanders, by their Looks only: Every one puts on a Holy-day Countenance, when he's to appear Aloft; and even Old Nick is wise enough, to look like an Elder, when he takes a jant to a Conventicle: Hence therefore, even Infallibility himself may be impos'd upon, and Fancy he dignify's an *Angelical-Fryer*, when he claps a *Cardinals Cap*, upon the Head of a *Diabolical-Conjuror*.

Now possibly, my Courteous Reader may retort upon me here, That to expose a Disease, without bringing an Antidote along with me, looks more like Officiousness than Discretion; and tastes rather of Malice, than Honesty. Well, Doctors differ, and I for my part, think this no very Logical conclusion, for I, like a plain down-right Patient, pretend to no more, than giving a sensible and feeling Account of Things, and leave the rest to the Doctors Skill or Mercy. But however, since (as says the Proverb) a Fool

may

may sometimes chance to give good Counsel; and not being certain, but that my Skull, at this Planetary Conjunction, may have a lucid Interval, beyond its accustom'd Stupidity: I'll e'en turn *State-Quack* for once, as all Mankind are for the Tooth-Ach; which yet (as my Lord Bacon has it) is the most acute of all Diseases: Now, if every old Grannum, that has got never a Tooth of her own, dare pretend to Subdue so terrible an Enemy, why may not I too, venture at a Lecture of Advice to my Brother Tars? according to what my present Thoughts may Dictate upon the Matter. But in venturing at this, 'tis with the *proviso*, That not a Man living Acquiesce with me; but such only, as fancy themselves not one inch Wiser than I am; and who look upon these *Recipe's*, with the very same Views that I do. This premis'd, I say, then,

If there be any such thing as a Civil *Catholicon* in Nature, it certainly must consist, in some very plain, homely, and simple Prescription; and therefore, I believe really in my Conscience, there needs no other Potion nor Lotion (the assistance of God concurring) than to take a *quantum sufficit*, of Honest and Able Officers: For, according to that slender Research, I, in my poor Life-time, have made into the Nature of Things, I am pretty positive, there would result, upon the Application of this sole Cataplasim, the following Operations.

First. These said compleat Officers, (for I except against Mungrels) or to speak in the singular

singular Number; this same Commander, wou'd look to his own Home first, (where Charity as well as Prudence, alway begins at) and expel all those Rampant Vices in himself, which he's authoriz'd and enjoyn'd, to root out of the Ship he resides in: And this he will do through a Principle of Reason, (which we suppose him always Master of) aswell as common Equity; but out of the apprehension of being Laugh'd at, and Despis'd; did he, being Drunk himself, sottishly Preach against Drunkenness, or with ranting Curses of his own, damn to the Cel- lar, a poor shabby Scoundrel, for issuing forth a single Oath, brought with him, perhaps, just pipeing hot from *Newgate*: In fine, as this same reason of his, would tell him, that no Rigour will Curb the Mob of his Ship from following their Leader; he will therefore keep his own Hands undefiled, that he may, with the better Grace, correct the Wretch, that has been caught picking his Mefs-Mates Pocket.

In the next place, such a Gentleman will (out of a due regard to his Oath given, and that Inviolable respect he has for his Honour) pay a Consciencious compliance, to all the Laws Military, and to every Order and Injunction of his General (the Lord High Admiral;) that by this fair and genteel way of Instruction, he may Teach all those under him, even the Illiterate, what is truly meant by Obedience and good Discipline: And if he find them not to come exactly up to the Original, he will consider, whether
it

it Springs from simple and natural Weakness, or obstinate and down-right Wilfulness; the former to better by Admonition; and the latter by Punishment; for which, the Sufferer will, when the Smart is over, bless the Hand that gave it.

Thirdly. As we may suppose him, by his long Reading of Men, Naturalist enough to know, that little Souls love Pelf, and high Minds Glory; he will therefore carry a discreet Suspicion, that his Purser, and so forth, may be of the Vulgar Stamp only, and not the Misters they give themselves out for; and so not trusting to their Vagabond Credentials, will Personally over-haul all their Weekly Accounts; lest by the resigning of that Affair over wholly to his Clerk, he occasion them too many Temptations of becoming Rascals. And if he chance to find any of them to have been Warpt by the Devil, he will, out of pure Charity to their Souls, not suffer them to grow so, but deliver them over to the Hand of Authority, to be reduced to the square rule of Honesty; from whence, if they are found to Relapse again, he will, as the only thorow Cure and means, to prevent Infection, see 'em well air'd at a Yard-arm.

And as Virtue it self cannot keep waking for ever, but must have her Hours of Relaxation; so our worthy Commander, when obliged to give way to these Necessities of Nature, will take care to substitute, honest, as well as watchful *Argus's*; who, while his own Eyes are closed, may see and observe every thing that passes, in either his own Ship,
or

or in Prizes ; by whose faithful reports from time to time, he may not, as 'tis usual, make them the sole wrong Doers, but prevent every Body from being so : But we do not suppose this Captain of ours, will take up with the slender Reputation of making other Men Honest, but aspire yet farther, even to that generous Mark, which all Noble Spirits aim at, even the title of Honourable ; that when his Cox-swain brings aboard his Letters Superscrib'd so, he may lawfully Swear he deserves it, and be heartily ready to venture his Carcass against any who durst offer to gain-say it.

This Manly and Noble bent of Soul, wou'd Naturally induce him, to have a most intimate and inseparable Acquaintance, with those two charming Sisters, *Courtesie* and *Liberality*, to captivate the Hearts of all Gentlemen Volunteers with the former ; and inspire the Breasts of all the lower Class, with the other ; and so gain to himself the unexpressible delight, of beholding, always before his Eyes, a whole Ship load of invincible Sailors, in exchange for a few glitt'ring Counters, the Toys of Fools, to Coax them into Foppery, Claps, and Surfeits. Having such a Gang, he wou'd scour our Channel with security ; and like the Immortal *Granvil*, fear nothing, tho' surrounded with the Fire of a whole *Armado* ; for true Virtue never gives out.

A Captain like this, wou'd give a Lustre to his Post ; nay, even gild Storms and Tempests, and make the very Cannon seem to
found

sound Harmoniously ; the admiring Crew, would be all Joy, all Rapture, and perfectly Dote on their great Commander; no Dangers, no Wants, no Hardships, must separate them ; but in spite of the Malice of all the United Elements, they would chearfully roam with him o're Natures vast Waste, even from the one Pole to the other : Nothing wou'd they fear, as having Virtue for their Guide, and a never failing Gratitude for their Patron ; nothing more sure of than their Reward, and therefore nothing wou'd they be Sollicitous about, but of fresh and hourly Occasions, of shewing their own Valour, and of displaying their Leaders Bounty.

Now were this single instance the general Practice of the Navy, what a wonderful Change shou'd we not see, nay and feel to, in the happy Effects of it ; then wou'd our best of Gentry repair to our Fleets, as to an Academy of Virtue, Honour, Learning, and Bravery altogether ; and then wou'd our Queen, and the whole Nation, think to find there a standing Nursery, of Noble, and Experienc'd Youths, prepar'd to fill up most of the vacant Charges in the State, even Civil, as well as Military : Then, in short, wou'd our Navy be truly Royal, by producing from time to time, a Succession of Wise, and Valiant Men, every way adapted to maintain the Honour, and Security of the *British* Diadem, and the Welfare and Prosperity of the People.

Pough ---- cries my Yawning Reader here, this

this Sot of a Skim-kettle thinks, I war'nt, that such sort of People are as easy to come by, as Lice in a Cook-Room ; and as plentifully met with here Ashear, as long Wiggs or Gold Watches : No faith Mr. *Greazy-beard*, continues he, perhaps, you are confoundedly mistaken, and this same Project of yours, is a meer *Chimera*, for were we to have none but such as you talk of for Commanders, why her Majesty would not have Frigats enough, to protect the *Newcastle* Colliers : *paul Capstan* -- this is carrying the point too far, Mr. *Tart* say I ; but besides, it would scarce frustrate our Design, if it was so ; for it matters not much, whether a Man be made Honest out of a Principle of Morality, or Fear ; where Reason won't do, the Birch may ; and if Pretenders found none Promoted, but Persons of try'd Integrity ; and if those already in Possession, found a weighty Purse could not dumfound the Voice of Equity ; 'tis very probable, we might, in a short period, have a sufficient number of Persons in the Navy, that would not down-rightly act Ill things, whatever itch they might otherwise have to Pilfering : None but Mad-men run into Fires ; and there is scarce such a Knave extant, as to run full butt upon ---- without being tollerably certain, of making, at the worst, a saving Voyage on't.

I say this, O *Reader*, purely to answer the too Uncharitable Sentiments of a rigid Objector, whilst, for my own part, I believe in better things of us ; for why should we harbour so scandalous an Opinion of our
Country,

Country, or entertain so Formidable an Idea of Vice, as to believe she enslaves such Numbers; has Virtue no Charms, or *Brittains* no Reason? where lies the Force, where the Incantation, as to render us so blind to our proper Interest?-- Interest, ay, there lies the Secret cries my half Politician; yes Martialists have Eyes, have Thought, and these they keep intent upon the Rainy-day, alack, Peace draws near; 'tis just stepping in upon us, and then Lord what shall become of 'em, that han't made Hay while the Sun Shin'd.

Yes Clerks I own, and *Purfers*, and all your little and great Pretenders to Bright Eye-sights, but conscious of no worth in 'em-selves; would naturally cast about thus, and look Sharp out, for any pittyful Shelter against a Wet-Skin; but a Person of Dignity and Honour, (and surely many such we have in the *Island*,) wou'd scorn to lodge Thoughts so disreputable to himself, so affronting to the Queen; and so dishonourable to the whole Kingdom.

Can we, nay dare we apprehend, that so Bountiful and God-like a Soul, that Shours down her Benefits on the most Obscure, and Minutest of Human beings in the *Island*; will, or can forget the best of Men, and her best of Subjects; that have spent their Bloom, their Strength, their Blood, their All, with cheerful and willing Hearts in the Service of their Country: Is it possible that Men so good, so deserving, can be abandon'd to want, in the *Haleyon* days of Peace; when the meanest *Cobler* shall be heard to Chirp
and

and Sing, brimful with Joy and Plenty: No, far be such curf'd Ingratitude from our happy *Iſland*; and far, far be it from all Worthy Breasts to think so; for Heaven, the Queen, the Senate, the People, all will contribute, and pay generous returns to unrewarded Virtue.

But granting even impossibilities, suppose that all these fail, and suppose the Skie fall too, (for both will alike concur,) yet what can be wanting to a Worthy Brave Soul, that has his own Innocence, and his own Good Deeds for his constant, and never failing Companions: This, even this alone is Reward sufficient; yielding such a constant Joy, such a steady Delight, as Infinitely surpasses all those restless flitting amusements, which the Great Theatre, the World; or the little one at the *Hay-Market* can give -- Holt-- come up Capstan--will a Military Cha--say to me here,-- but one step further and your'e giddy and Confounded; why Lord (will he say) what a Metaphysical Whip-cream Diet is this you propose for Officers to subsist on? A great Sign indeed you have liv'd among *Camelions* in the Deserts of *Arabia*; for had you been bred up with, and thorowly perponder'd (as St. *Austin* says) as Christians here, your Projects had taken a different turn, for I nurtur'd up with Academical-- and the more solid nourishment of Nautical ingenuity, and long long conversant with the busie World, which I have thorowly study'd know perfectly well the Palate and Disposition of Adult Man-kind:

kind: and above all, the Constitution of a true bred *Sailor*, have therefore you find fitted him accordingly, with an agreeable Bait, by proposing to Marry every Mothers Son of 'em without a License, ay, or publishing the Bands of Matrimony. Now this, tho' it might oftime transmutes simple Fornication into Adultery; yet can there possibly be a better Method thought on to Increase and Multiply: and consequently Man the Navy *ad Infinitum*, on the other hand, what can be hop'd for from your insipid Cookery here, made up of musty Proverbs, and Frigid Adages, of Virtue is its own reward, and such like Heathen Balderdash, that never produc'd any thing but Gripes and Leanness; prithee (will he continue perhaps) my honest Beef-Boiler keep to thy Text, the Cookroom: and don't make thy self a Jest in good earnest; for take it from me, and from hence forth and ever, as a standing Maxim, true as Burgeo is made of Oatmeal, that while Crape is Crape, and all Whitenesses is rub'd out, as unbecoming Blemishes in it, just so long will Lay Officers keep to their modern Creed; and firmly believe that a first rate Wigg and taudry Suit, is a better Ornament than a good Reputation: and that 'tis more Genteel to give a standing Pension to a Miss, than a solitary Groat to our shatter'd forlorn *Sailor*.

Well *Pentesthe*, but is this the way to render our Fleets Invincible? is it by these unhallowed measures we are to build up the Strength and Security of the Nation? No, sooner

sooner shall the Navy, Mann'd with *Grum-mets*, become a Terror to the Enemy; sooner shall our Merchants, by crowding their Ships with Supernumerary Eaters, grow the more wealthy; and sooner shall the Nation in general gain vast Sums Annually, by drawing off Boys and Apprentices, from the Arts of Handicraft and Agriculture, to the furling of a Topgallant Sail; I say, sooner shall any one of, or even all these three surprizing Revelations be fulfill'd, according as it written, in *Pro. the 1st. Chap. 1st. v. 2d.* than ever it will be once found, that the Navy can, or will be compleatly Mann'd, and maintain'd so without Accomplished Officers. Mind this Word my Accomplished Reader, for it has a plaguy far reaching Sense with it; and includes somewhat more than the bare getting of an Estate, and boxing of the Compass.

But if it shou'd prove so, (as tis hard to be believed) that a Compleat Seminary of such Worthy Men cannot be had for Love; (for they never will be bought for Money) then, there seems no Remedy left, but to make the best of an ill Game; and by Address and Prudence, keep those from becoming stark naught, that we find to have a Bloody itching to be so; Ay, but *Hic labor hoc Opus est*, here lies the pinch, and what *Bickerstaff*, what cunning Man is there able to bring this about to some purpose? why faith and troth, in my humble Opinion, the Task is neither Wondrous, Difficult, nor Mysterious; as for instance, for we must
not

not stand upon Ceremony, now that the Peace is too near to spoil the projection in this Grand Elixir. I say then, that suppose

In the first place there were a Method taken (an effectual one to besure it must be) to prevent Complaints, (both verbal and written ones) from being Quasht stifled, and Dumb-founded. The guilty part of Mankind has got so high an Ascendent in these our days, that if an oppress'd Wretch, but meerly sigh forth his sufferings; he's gang'd strait with the Infamous Epithet of *Mutineer*, and *Infomer*; and being once branded with this Mark, he's Condemn'd as the only unsufferable Villain in the Navy; and accordingly has his Skin stript off his Back, worse than any Gally-Slave.

Now where is the bold Man, that singly would run this hazard, of this (ay and of worse too oftentimes) and after all, at the best meet with as little regard, as *Diogenes* Begging of a Marble Statue. 'Tis this makes Sailors Dumb; and 'tis this makes Villany Flourish; for we cannot believe a Mariner so insensible a Dunce, as not to feel, or not to be disposed to make known his Grievances, might he do it with Credit, and do it to purpose: Neither, on the other hand, can we, without manifest Injustice, suppose, that just Complaints wou'd at any time be Conniv'd at, or left Unremedy'd, did they once reach the Ear of Impartial Justice, seated no where more truly, than in the Breast of the *L. H. A.*

How comes it then, that so many Wrongs
are

are felt, and so few heard of? why truly, there are a great many Reasons concur to this No-wonder; here's Power and Authority, against Weakness and Subjection; Subtilty and Address, against Simplicity and Plain-dealing; formidable Patrons and Intercessors, against thread bare Innocence void of Abettors: Now with all these odds, and the yet powerfuller one of a Thousand Guineas, to spare (perhaps out of Ten Thousand) to distribute among a few Knights of the Post and Bribe-feelers, the Dickins must be in it, if a Superior baffles not a *Forma Pauperis* at D——rs-C—— ay, and at all the C—— in *Christendom*.

Hah! Knights of the Post say ye? why what have you such sort of Cattle in your Element? ay verily, we have some dapper Fellows, that shall swallow a whole green Bag full of Perjuries as glibly, as a Snicker of Punch in a Frosty Morning; and what wonder, pray? for who but the Devil, can avoid the double Temptation of Pence and Preferment, for the trifling Task of swooping up such an insignificant Drench: The aforesaid Antidote clapt in after it, carrys off the rising of his Conscience at last effectually, tho at first they may swell him as Monstrously, as a Jack-pudding Poyson'd on the Stage, by the infallibly Curing *Quack* his Master.

Now Matters being thus, the Expedient abovesaid, must be as the first and chief Corner Stone laid; to wit, find out some proper and effectual Methods, (of which tryal must be the Judge) to induce those in our Shipping

Shipping (ay and in our Docks and elsewhere too, if we would carry it as far as it should go) to make their Discouragements and Grievances known from time to time, either by Letter or otherways ; and to have the *British* Freedom allow'd them, of painting every Devil in his proper Colours. This all Gallant and Generous Officers would be highly glad of, as the only proper means to make their real worth known, and distinguish'd from such pitiful Wretches, as impose upon the Credulous World, with their counterfeit Passports, a heavy Purse, and flaunting Appearance.

Now, to bring this about, there might several good Ways be found out, with a very little deal of Thinking ; Two there are at this Moment, that fall within my Thoughts ; which, I perswade my self, wou'd do it to the purpose. The one is, To have appointed by her Majesty, or Senate, or L. H. A. two or three Persons of unspotted Integrity, proof to all Awe, and to all Corruption, to appoint these as Advocates for injur'd Justice ; to whom all of the Marine, from the Highest to the Lowest, may have a Free and Unbrib'd Access, whether in Person, and by Letter, to make known, and lay open to 'em, their several Grievances ; and not this only, but to communicate without reserve, whatever they find tending to the prejudice of the Service, or may any way, seem to promote and improve it.

Nothing is more evident, nothing more known, than that Thousands of bitter
Wrongs,

Wrongs, (and somewhat worse) have been stifled or lost in Oblivion, meerly for want of a known or easy way and means, for the poor Sailors to repair to upon these Occasions. Those who live far from the noise of Guns, cannot, but by Miracle, hear the cries of those that defend them in Repose and Plenty: Such indeed may well imagine, that every thing is just as it shou'd be, that all goes well, and every one rests contented, because they meet with no Weeping nor Complaining in our Streets; when God knows, there is but too too many elsewhere, no less to be regarded, than our own Homes, and our Chimney-Corners: But as these are remote, remote they are kept; and purely for want of such an easie and intelligible Method, as aforesaid.

For the most of Mariners, are absolute Strangers to the proper ways of Address and Application, in the Redress of their proper Wrongs and Grievances; and the few, that through a long Experience, or Enquiry, may have learnt this, yet, almost constantly find the avenues barr'd up against them; and as they are Fellows that will not bellow forth their Complaints, like a Mob of *Spittle-Fields* Weavers, they e'en shrug up their loaded Shoulders, and suppress their Groans, but yet with an unchangeable Resolution of Deserting the first opportunity. Now, who regards this? not the Commander to be sure, for he Presses for more; or 'tis but Writing aloft, and he has others turn'd over aboard of him, without the least Reason given for the Cau-

ses of his Wants; but Damn 'em they were good for nothing Dogs to be sure, that run away thus, and not fit to be concern'd with any Ropes but a Halter.

Ay, but says my spiteful Reader here, where shall the Lord High Admiral, or the Senate, or Her Majesty, find, or Muster up, those three unspotted Advocates, or indeed this one *Phoenix*, this upright *Aristides*, (for one perhaps might do the work) this Man of so undaunted Zeal, and unblemish'd Probity, that maugre all the Golden Ingots of *Peru*, the rumbling Threats of Naval *Hectors*, the enchanting Accents of Female *Syrens*, and the soft intranceing Indolence of a Down Bed, or two arm'd Chair and Slippers; who can, I say, in spite of these intervening Obstacles, attendeth his noble Charge? and with the sedate Temper of a Philosopher, calmly lend a list'ning Ear, to all complaining Tongues, or patiently peruse their Papers, without brow-beating this, rejecting that, pishing a third, threat'ning a fourth, and frustrating all the other *Et cetera's* of their Errands.

Yes, certainly, such are to be met with in our Renowned *Island*; such, at least, I am sure, were to be found in the days of Old *Rome*, when *Rome* shin'd in its greatest Splendour; then *Censors* were found in plenty; who durst Attach and Arraign Subjects greater than Kings; and make them truckle to standing Laws of Justice and Equity? Men that could not be Cajol'd or Frighted; and who sought no other Recompence, but the

the immortal Honour they obtain'd, by so illustrious an Employment.

Now if some, somewhat like these, are not to be had among us, why then my second Device drops of Course, and becomes Abortive; ay, and so will all others, tho' there were Ten Thousand more, if this onely one be wanting: For upon this Basis, a noble Superstructure might be rais'd, which would stand Proof to all the Attacks, and to all Underminings; then no Payments would be found prorogued, nor no Causes adjourn'd to the day of Judgment; then all Trick and Oppression shou'd come forth; every thing have its due Course, and meet with a speedy and final Issue, the Good to receive their due Reward, and the Naughty their deserv'd Correction. What a Change, what a Turn, would not such Consequences give to our Affairs? and how much greater Reason would our Enemies have to be Alarm'd, than they were by our late happy Union?

Our Navy would then indeed, in a very short period, be rais'd to its *ne plus ultra*, no Speck, no Blemish, would then lye hid, from the Eyes of him, whose Integrity and Ability, is capable of every thing that's Great, Good, and Just: Every one then would be sending in his Quota of Advice, and Informations, even from the Lofty *Bongee*, down to my worshipful Shifters. The Captain, the Chaplain, the Purser, the Halt, the Lame, the Blind, all would be for shewing their Parts, as well as Grievances; and consequently, I, among the rest too, would

pay my Contribution, my little Mite ; which possibly, might be in this, or the like Homely and Sincere manner.

May it please your Honour.

AS your Charge is great, and your Dispatches yet greater, I will not rob you of one Moment of your precious Hours, with an Impertinent Preamble, but humbly beg your Serious Perusal of the following Lines ; every of which tend to, and center in the Publick Good, that great Pole all we poor Sea-faring Creatures Steer by, without any prepos't'rous Variations, tending to the Ship-wrack of the Navy.

Your Humble Servant, being the Ships Cook of the *Lyme*, thinks it properst (with Submission to your better Judgment) to begin his Remarks at the *Fougon*, and with his own Aliment, the Ships Provisions : And here my Lord, or an't please your Worship, I must beg leave, with a heavy Heart, to complain, what Sufferances, what Head-aches, what Qualms I endure, (and its no small matter, will make a Cooks Stomach keck I assure you) and all through the Victuals, and especially the Beef, which goes through my Hands ; which, oftentimes, carrys such an ineffable Hogo with it, that verily, I should never be able to bear with its Superphical Infusions, were it not for one sole Comfort accruing ; and that is the Rats, Sir, who never once offer to infest my Quarters, while such a far-scenting Nosegay flourishes there. Now, as several and repeated Attempts,

tempts, have in vain been made to Redress, or rather Suppress, (for 'tis Wilfully) this unsavory Grievance; I desire only of your Honour to believe, that I have no Hand in the Plot, and I can assure you Sir, our worthy Chaplain is of the same Opinion, and has absolv'd me from the Blood of all those who have — by it, and has wholly Charg'd it upon the Master, as believing him more Knave than Fool; for Fools you know Sir, have in all Ages and Cases, been allow'd the Benefit of the Clergy.

Far be it from me to complain Sir, of the comical Disproportion of the Pieces, because, thanks to Heaven, I have Grace and Discretion enough, not to chuse the worst for my self; and long Habit has made it Natural to me, to lick my own Fingers. But what I cannot for the Tongue of me be mute in, is the intollerable Saltness of some of the Victuals, insomuch, that notwithstanding all the Pains I take in Shifting, and thorough Boyling of it, the Sailors are everlastingly Railing against me; and say, I am the Prime Occasion of scorching up their Intraills, and consuming their Radical moisture; their Radical moisture Sir, which (as our Chaplain has oftentimes told me) is the *prima causa* toward the production of a lusty Generation of young Grummets. Now, as I hope to be saved this superabundant Saltness, I am as great and sworn an Enemy to, as any Man living; and therefore, to lay the Saddle upon the right Horse, an't please ye, this same Crime (for it is one) almost wholly

D 3

proceeds

proceeds from the Agent Victuallers, who to preserve Meat return'd home from Foreign Voyages, are engag'd to bury it in whole Cart Loads of Salt; and then deliver it out again to Ships ev'n Bound to the *West-Indies*, as Mr. *Ipsé Dixit* has often told me. 'Tis true, I won't say, that our bad Flesh meat always comes from their Hands, because my Master, the Twice Broken Tallow-Chandler, will (where *British* Meat is rare and dear) sell or part with the choicest of the Cask, and buy up old Salted *Irish-Run*, to serve the Men in lieu of it.

Now, I hope your Honour, the first occasion you take to drink a Dish of Chocolate with the L. H. A. will lay this stinking Article before him; only I cannot but make Bold to say, for my own Comforts sake, (because 'twoud save me a vast deal of Trouble) that since our Trips to the *Strait*, *Southern Cape*, *West-Indies*, &c. are so frequent, and in which Fresh Water is so scarce, and hard to come by, it would be a very laudable thing, to promote (and what cannot you promote Sir) either the method the *Dutch East India* Ships make use of, or else that yet better one among some of our own Merchant Ships, who Stove their Salt Victuals, not in, but over the Water; (Fresh or Salt Water, all's a case here) which does not only thorowly Boil, or Decoct, (for I have no other Name for it in my *Dictionary*) but Freshens it also; the Steam piercing quite through the Meat, and drawing off all the Brine from it. By this Sir, you will find, not only a vast benefit

Benefit accrue to the Men by the Ditch, but to the Nation too, in the reduction of Naval Expences; for as the Consumption of Wood or Coal would be nothing more than what is commonly laid in for the Customary uses; so would there be small or no Occasion for fresh Water aboard, but solely for drinking, by which, not the Pence only is sav'd, but sometimes the Ship too; which frequently is exposed to inevitable Ruin, either in Fights, or in Storms, or in Clashes, by being over pestered with Cask, and overladen with Water, or other Liquids.

Nor is this all, an't please your Goodness, for by this Roominess made in the Ships Hold, she is render'd the more capable of carrying a larger Store of dry Provisions, and Flesh Meat, when sent out on remote Voyages; where all such Peck is always very much wanting. For, if Sir, you'll give me leave to nibble a little at Philosophy, and why mayn't Cooks, as well as some body else, be all Things, and turn to all Things, in order to save some? And a great Sum it is that would be sav'd, by what I would be at; and that is Sir, to abrogate, nay utterly Abolish that sneaking Custom of short Allowance. I speak not this, Worthy Sir, purely for the sake of my Fat, as some Malicious Animadvertisers perhaps may insinuate; but mainly and wholly upon the score of the Men, and Ships Welfare: for it is not, (as I was going to say before) it is not, the meer change of Climate, and diversity in the Meat, and purity of the Air, or the like Mountebank

Reasons, that Southern, or far distant Regions sweeps off all our *Sailors*, like a Murrain among Sheep; but tis their waterish Veins, and lank empty Bellies, which are far too niggardly, and poor in their Supplies to the Spirits, to the Humours, and to the Solids; proportionable to those exhausts made by the Sun, and by the Air, whose perpetual Ardor, preys incessantly upon a poor Carcase; like a Bagnio or Glas-house. Now certainly *Sir*, there is reason in roasting of Eggs; and if a young Virgin, even in this Temperate Clime of *Brittain*, can (as the Royal Society have Experimented,) fairly sweep up half a Dozen Pidgeons at a sitting, without ever easing an hairs breadth of her Stays for the matter: Which way can we in reason expect, that Three whopping *Tars*, can well take up with a piece of dry Beef, not so big oft times as a single Pidgeon of the second Magnitude; and this too, serv'd out but once in two Days neither; and in a Country where the very Rocks and Stones seem to Gape, and call out for more Nourishment: For verily *Sir*, there's no heed to be given to the rivetted Opinion of some of our *Virtuosi*, who will needs have it, that in those Superfine Regions, the Appetite is so languid; and Stomach so feeble, that nothing will go down well, but Panado and Jelly-Broth; nay, some of them go yet further, and will downright swear it, that nothing is so Nutritive there, as a Jolly Breeze; because forsooth, *Atlas*, by his sticking so close this long and many a Day to his warm

Post,

Post, under the *Torrid Zone*; has left all Inclination for Carnal Diet; and lives on nothing but Clouds and Mildew: I say again *Sir*, that all this is a meer Humflam Story, and that on the other hand, the very Herbs, Shrubs, and Trees there, are so Insatiable and Hungry too, as to ask perpetually, for a double Portion of the Showers of Heaven, ay, and Marrow of the Earth also, to what our Phlegmatick Plants do in *Brittain*. And if these silly inanimate beings (that neither Knit nor Spin, but are as lasie as a Lilly, that pretty Prototype of *Gallick Monarchy*;) if these I say, abominate all short Allowances; what shall Man, and the most Toiling and Robust of the Species, a *Sailor* do? whose Watchings, whose Sweat, and Drudgery is never abated, tho' his Food be more than one half so, all things considered, I say, all things considered, because it is not barely the *Pursers* Weights and Measures, nor the parch'd up driness of the Flesh-Meat, that is to be taken notice of, but also the many *Hogs, Dogs, Sheep, Goats, Geese, Turkys, Ducks, Hens* and so on, belonging to the Office's; (I include not my self here *Sir*, for positively I never keep any) which run away with a large Share of that dry Peck, which wholly belongs to the Ships Company: add to all this, their Water Drinking, for the Wine, the Rum, &c. soon knock off there, which is the all in all; the very Cement that keeps a *Mariners* Body and Soul together; inasmuch, that a *Tar* sets as high a Regard on a single

D 5

Quart.

Quart of Ship Beer, as his whole Days Allowance in Provisions;

Now all this Worthy Sir, with them any intermitting Days, wherein the Crew are bubbled even of their very Water-Money; being duly consider'd; would methinks be very apt to engage your Honour, to protest against these Things, and resolve, that without some contingent and unavoidable necessity (which shall be specify'd and exprest in every Journal kept aboard,) the Ships Company shou'd never be reduced to Water-Drinking, so long as any other Liquor was to be had for Credit or Money; as also, that they, like good Christians, be kept to their full Allowance in Provisions; even *durante vita*.

I say, I am apt to believe Sir, these would be, and will be your Resolutions; not only upon the Score of *Sailors* both Souls and Bodies; (which short Allowance Money ruins, by making them Extravagant Sots for a Day or two, and then it vanishes;) but also upon a National Account. For to let you see Sir, I understand Politicks, almost as well as my Catechism: I shall make bold to inform ye, that a Change like this, would promote our Lands, our Estates, and our Trade, encrease our Shipping and Mariners; and keep a no small Quantity of Cash from going out of the Nation. As to the first of these particulars, 'tis so evident, that any Old Woman may discern it without Spectacles; for this Additional Stock of Oats, of Pease, of Hogs, of Beefs, &c. expended by the full Allowances, would necessarily

put us upon Inclosing, Cultivating, and
improving abundance of Wilds, and Wastes
in the Kingdom; and consequently in the
second place, wou'd also promote Trade and
Employment; for the Mattock, and Plough,
the Hook and the Crook, and Fifty other
Employments wou'd Occupy, ay, Substan-
tially Occupy even our very Women, with
a Thousand Vagrants besides; and not a few
of the idle Indigents in every Parish, with-
out needing to send them, (as some People
wou'd) to infect our Fleets; where nothing
should by right be seen, but the Spirit, and
Flower of the Nation.

That it wou'd also employ our Trade, is
as plain as *Paul's Cupulo*: We keep a whi-
ning e'ry day, that much of our Shipping lies
rotting by the Walls, purely for lack of Em-
ployment; why, take 'em, some of the good
ones I mean, (and not rotten Hulks as cer-
tain People do) into the Service; more or
less, as Occasion may require, in the Tran-
sportations of a part of Fleets, or Squadrons, or
Convoys, Provisions at full Allowance; and
my Life for it, we shall at the bottom of the
Account, gain 20 or 40 per Cent. by it: For
by this means our Ships of War wou'd alway
be Airy, Roomy, and Healthy; alway rea-
dy for a Fight: always fit to weather a Storm,
and grapple with all other contingencies.
By this, will several Trading Vessels be kept
from falling to pieces, and prove besides
their designed use, of Service to the Ships of
War, upon other Occasions; for, in En-
gagements they could assist them with Hands,
and

and when shattered by an Enemy, by Storms; or otherwise, would alway be at hand to lend them some relief or other; and at last, when these Transports are clear'd of their Burthen, (which is, or may be done in a short space,) they are ready for a new Freight, which they can scarce well fail of, in some Neighbouring Port or another; because they can Sail at an under rate to Ships that have not the Advantage of such an Employment, nay, even wanting this, they may yet as 'twere force a Trade wheresoever they come; and no where more, than in remote Countries, where Timber of all kinds, &c. is to be had for the Cutting, as in our *West-Indies*, &c. Finally Sir, as I said above, it would also not a little contribute toward keeping a good Sum from running out of the Island; I must confess, I am not *Arithmetician* enough, to inform your Honour of the precise quantity; but I dare venture to guess, that it would amount to about a quarter of the Million which our Worthy *Chaplain* has Demonstrated he will save us; and that's no inconsiderable lump I assure ye. For Sir, to proceed to Demonstration, according to the laudable Method of all Politick Accomptants; you are sensible, that we are alway paid, (when paid at all,) our Wages, (very unwisely I think) at the Time our Ships are outward Bound; and as a *Sailor* is such a cunning Dog, that he wont leave it behind with *Dol Common*; So he has ever that curst *Ranhead* and *Bloody Bones*, the short Allowance in view, who makes the Devil to pay

pay with all those (if there's any such) who set out with empty Pockets; and this *Sir* is a very strong Inducement for a poor *Tar* to carry his *Omnia* with him, for he has Mother Wit enough to know, that when Life's gone, all is gone with it; therefore he's sure to Sacrifice every Consideration, in favour of the main Chance; and so is apt, not only to launch out all the Ready he carries a-Board; but even strip to a single Shirt, when his Belly calls for it; and as a last Refuge, does by Note, Bond, and what not of Pettifogging, consign over perhaps the better half of his Wages in Reversion, for even a third of the Value in present Coin; which some Gentlemen never fail to carry with em, upon so Charitable a Design. And thus my poor Devil returns home in *Quorpo*, and who alack can justly discommend him for it, since we find in these our Days, that even Monarchs themselves will part with their very Nutmegs to save their Carcasses.

Be not offended (most Noble *Festus*,) if I carry this Article of the Peck, yet one Step further. 'Tis a pardonable fault this, *Sir*, considering how woundy natural it is, for every one to chatter excessively upon his own profession: I would therefore (with your good leave tho') have some small alteration made in the Quality, as well as Quantity of the *Sailors* Diet; for 'tis evident, (or else our Philosophical Transactors have very wrong Notions of Things,) that some Food Nourishes better than other some; and that an Apple and an Oyster are two Things.

Even

Even so it has been found too, by the self-evident Demonstration of the *Sailors* Bellies, that Peas have a far more hearty Nutrient than Oatmeal, which at the best is but a very itchy and lousy Companion. And thence it is, I suppose, that the *Sailors* upon a certain Puff of Honour, Icorn to shew any respect or loving kindness to Burgoo, which is never found adorable in the Eyes of any but Hogs only; so they at all times can freely suffer this foul Devil to enter the Field of Swine; and when these are wanting, they fairly toss it over Board at the Gun-ports, but this I, or rather my Master the *Pariser* takes care to prevent, by delivering forth just no more than will be catch, and the rest goes to the Lord of the Manner.

Now what an unavoidable waste is here in a Species of Provision, that would turn to a very good Account in an Army; where I dare be sworn, not one Horse would cry out against it. Suppose therefore, Dear Sir, suppose I say, that in lieu of this *North-Britain Diet*, the *Mariners* were assign'd some Flesh Meat, I don't say too much of it, no, Heaven forbid; but as this Sir, let them have Three Pound (and they in fact seldom have more) for their supposed Four Pound Pieces, on the Flesh Days; and with this Deduction, added to the Value of the Oatmeal, richly furnish out other such pieces on the *Banquet Days*; and thus they would have Four Beef, and Three Pork Days a Week, with their full Peas, for ever and ever. *Amell.*

Peas

Peas is a Noble Food, might may be allow'd
 a Competent Judge Sir, and therefore, as I
 would not have em wrong'd of one Ounce
 of their Three Pound Pieces, so nor of one
 single Pea neither, if I could help it. I know
 well that my Flocks are oft times pelting me
 upon this score, with a Thousand *Billing-
 gate* Epithets, but very undeservedly truly;
 for Lord Sir, what can a poor well meaning
 Fellow as I am, do in this Case? One can
 have no more of a *Cat* than's in her Skin;
 and if the *Parfer* will deliver me but above
 half the due Measure to Boil; the Fault
 most certainly lies not at my doof.

And now Sir, having done with what
 properly belongs to my own Calling, I will
 according to the judicious practice of my
 Betters, in all Ages and Countries; have an
 Oar in other Mens Boats; or to express it
 more Superficially, I will fly a little out of
 the Circle of my Vocation, to bring your
 Honour in a little Honey of my own gather-
 ing, that shall savour neither of Pork nor Beef
 Fat: And the first Spoonful I present your
 Worthiness, is Liberty, a sweet morsel I as-
 sure you; not a Fanatical Calves-head Li-
 berty, but a Rational one; such as both
 Heaven and Nature allows to Bees, (without
 which, we shou'd never have any of their
 Celestial Manna; and Virgins Wax become
 as great a Rarity as a Virgin.)
 'Tis this well grounded freedom that *Sa-
 lors* wou'd now and then be nitling at, and
 without the prospect of which, we can no
 more expect they will come Spontaneously
 into

into the Navy; then they will enter Volunteers in the *Fleet*, not far from *Bridewell*. The *Dutch* we find never Press for *Mariners*; and yet, no sooner has a Homeward bound Ship dropt Anchor, but strait all Hands whip a-Shore, nay sometimes, without so much as staying to furl the Sails; which they leave to be done by others alway ready for the purpose. This indeed is Liberty with a witness; yes Dear Sir, I own it, but why should the Thing be wholly restrained merely because of the Abuse? take away the Cause, and the Effect ceases; as my *Grannum*, I remember once taught me, after I had defil'd my Trouzers: Allow 'em Sir, but a reasonable degree of it, and I'll warrant, they shall very seldom spoil themselves with a Surfeit; for their Pockets will even and anon be dodging them at the Fingers ends, and whenever they find them Empty, and no Credit a-Shore; they will of Course come aboard again to their Sea-Peck.

To this end Sir, a Law (according to the Judicious Practice of the *French*) might be made, that whosoever trusted a Sailor beyond a Groat, (for that will break no Squares) being actually in the *Queens*, or *Merchants* Service, (for both must go together, perhaps else it may loose its Virtue,) the Debt should be made irrecoverable by Law; notwithstanding all Assignments made, by Note, Bond, or otherways. Now Sir, if the Brutal part of the Navy, (and such are in truth no Sailors,) did not bless the

the Senate, for promoting such a Bill; yet their Wives, their Children, and Relations wou'd, nay, and every one wou'd; but a few Rascally and Lewd Houses, that live upon the vilest Sins of the Nation. Let them then a Gods Name *Sir*, tast of this same Charming Thing, called Liberty; but have it under certain restrictions and Limitations, as that they never presume to go without the Knowledge and Leave of the Supream, then on Board: because Times, and Places, and Persons, and Occurrences, are Circumstances that cannot precisely be reduc'd to set Limits.

And here *Sir*, I almost too late call to mind, (for I have a Treacherous Memory, God help me,) of one Grand Fault, which to give it the softest Title, I call it a gross Error; and that is *Sir*, the Perpetuity of the Service, with Regard to the Common Crew; contrary to the Practice of their High and Mightinesses (good plain Politicians, that's certain,) who enter not their *Sailors* only, but also their Milice, for 1, 2, or 3 Years, as they shall agree to enter, at the Expiration of which they are their own Masters; and by a *Jure Divino*, may go where themselves best please. Now their *Skellums* having this view, and free from the Anxious thought of being confin'd, *durante bene placito*; (as all Tools are) by this they become so far from being uneasie under, or Sick of their Service; that in truth they but very rarely make so much as any use of their assigned Freedom; o-ther than by renewing the Engagement again, when

when near Expiring; and so continue in this Mode ten times longer perhaps than they at first intended.

Can any thing be more dejecting, or indeed any thing more grievous, than to see a parcel of Honest Fellows, when come Home from a Long, Baneful, *West India* Voyage, Strait turn'd over into other Ships, Bound upon the same Trip: And thus are they chuffed about from Ship to Ship, without enjoying one glimpse of their Native Homes, perhaps for Seven Years together. Now a poor Tar, that is Prest with us upon such a Footing as this, and under the sad and gloomy Prospect of no Freedom, till the Peace knock off his Chains, (real or imaginary, all's a Case, if he think 'em such.) I say such a poor Wretch, looks on himself in a more forlorn Condition entering a Man of War, than entering a Prison: and casts the same Envious wet Eye upon them he beholds from far aboard the small Craft, as an irredeemable Debtor, does on those Uncharitable Gilt Coaches, that ever and anon pass through *Indgate*.

Now, most worthy Sir, a Man may, without Quoting *Aristotle*, affirm, that the gauling Sense of such imaginary Shackles would be wholly removed, did we but put in Practice this piece of *Dutch Civility*, with this Addition, (if you please) that when their appointed time is expired, if they will go by choice from the Service; (which they never will do, if you will but be govern'd by your humble Servant to Command) that then

then their places be to be first fill'd up (by way of Exchange) from out the Merchant Ships, of such Men, as have no Certificate to Chew, made for the purpose of their having been already in the Service; or of such, whose Certificates are so Antiquated, that it falls to their turn of Course to come in again. Here's a Project for ye Sir, worth Fifty of some Knightly ones of Registers, or other the like Flim-flams, that take place in the World, to the sole comfort of the Contrivers: Now, this of mine Sir, (pray allow me to Scratch my self a little, since no Body else will do it for me) I say this same is so fair, so impartial a Distribution of the Task, among the whole Universal Mass of Mariners, that verily they wou'd Flock to the Navy, faster by far, than Beau's are now hurrying down to the Bath, or Tunbridge; and every one would take his Spell by turns, with as much Alacrity, May, and Pride too, as a Taylor does of being High Constable: And truly he could not help doing otherways; for to decline a Flourish or two, at the Cudgels, upon such square and equitable Terms, would be such an apparent Badge of a Peetron, that the whole Ring, all his Brethren, would Pin upon the Slave, and Hoot him out of his very Being: Whereas, according to the present Tide of Affairs, every Man has his Apology at hand, and evades the Service, without imputation; for it is not, cries he, the brunt of a Sea Fight, that makes me to Flinch, or Desert; but its the Slave-like usage, at every turn met with, from the very
 all
 Men,

Men, that should Cherish and Encourage us. There is another small Species of Freedom, Sir, that wants the compleating; Her Majesty has very Wisely allowed to Petty Officers, the Priviledge to remove from any one of her Ships to another, when the Party has any just Motives, or better hopes of Preferment, to encline him to the Exchange: Now I cannot Sir, perceive any inconveniency 'twould be, if this same Liberty extended also to the whole Crew; for believe me, that Captain who has no better methods to engage a Sailor to stay with him, than that of compulsion is a shrewd Sign, that the Fault lyes at his own Door; and consequently, does by no means deserve to have him. On the other hand, for lack of this Freedom, Sailors are exposed to the most Tyrannick usage; for he dreads the result of his Complaints sent to any Higher Power, because he's almost sure they'll be Intercepted, and stop't their due Flight; and as sure, that he shall have 'em return'd upon his Back with a Vengeance: But a Priviledge like this, your Honour perhaps may think, would render the Sailors too Resty and Headstrong: Not at all, for the Law Military stands always ready at a Commanders Elbow, to chastize them, when any way Exorbitant; and I hope Sir, there requires no Severity over such as are not so.

Thus, Sir, have I made Bold to offer to your Consideration, two very considerable Branches, belonging to us poor Members of the Navy, viz. our Food, and our Christiari like Freedom; there is a Third, which, in the

the Opinion of all Furrs, long Wigs, and *Robee*-Tea drinkers, is the Chief, and Top-Branch, of all Others; and that is our Pay; and our Prize-Money: And these Sir, I will lay before you, in their proper Order; first, Dish ye up the Pay, and then bring in the Dessert, Prize Money?

I shall not presume to be so Rude Sir, as to dinn your Ears with any Noffy Exclamations against the Establisht Pay, which the Government has thought fit to assign the Common Sailor: But yet I can hardly refrain from wishing, there were a somewhat nearer proportion, between the Wages of a Mariner, and your petty Species of Mechanicks; these kind of Wishes you will Pardon me in Sir, so oft as my Thoughts turn upon the mighty Disproportion that is betwixt them, in their Toils, their Watchings, their Hazards, and a great many other momentous Circumstances: Not but that a Tar, Sir, can look Big, ay, and Starve too upon occasion, with as good a Grace, as any Philosopher; but yet Sir, it cuts him to the Soul when Ashoar, to find, that according to the Rules of *Decorum*, he must sheer clear, and give way, to every Poulder'd Bob he meets with; and it cannot but be a grievous Heart-burning to him no doubt, to behold every little Shaver tofs up his Nose, to look out for a Tavern-bush, the preface to the Bottle; while he, God wot must take up with a sneaking Dram of *Gin*, in some infernal Cellar; where at Noon, he finds ev'n a Journey-Man Prick-louse, aswer'd with a coming Sir, when he
calls

calls for his Boild Beef and Carrot; whilst our poor Devil is most irreverently accosted, with a Damme *Jack*; have Patience, and stay till Mr. *Cobler's* serv'd before ye. These Sir, with a great many more such dejecting Rencontres, is very provoking, and enough to make him, in some Sullen Mood, to forswear all Poverty, and the Service; and even fairly to strike in for a thorow Base, to some warbling She-Ballard-Singer or other; where a Man is sure of at least Twelve Pence a day standing Wages, besides the Snips coming in from the Pocket Divers.

But since the Exigencies (I was a going to say Poverty) of the State, will not permit of any Enlargements in this kind, at this closeing Conjunction, let us hope dear Sir, that amends will be made at the next Beat of Drum, when *Mars*, or our Neighbours, shall Influence, or Provoke, or an over Repletion, require us, to let Blood again. And in the interim, let us, I beseech ye Sir, have that small *Modicum* that from Year to Year shall become due to us; let us I say, have it as Currently issu'd out to us, as it is punctually deliver'd into the Hands of the *Quam diu se bene esserint*. And then perhaps, we shall not any longer have our News-Papers stuf't out, as they daily are, with such like Advertisements, viz. Whereas several Worthy Noblemen and others, have got late Grants by Parliament, to Sell, or Mortgage, all, or part of their Estates, toward the Payment of Debts: These are to inform all such Honourable and well Dispos'd Gentlemen, that

they may have at — they know where, any
 Countable or Unaccountable Sugis, for their said
 Lands; provided, always, there be no Flaws in
 the Conveyances.

It must be own'd truly, that our Ships, ge-
 nerally speaking, are much better paid now,
 than in the late War; but this, under Cor-
 rection Sir, is only a comparative Amend-
 ment, and reaches not home to the Purpose;
 for I Sir, even I, my self can Witness, I
 ha'nt received one Farthing pay these —
 let me see — these — in Faith Sir, I'm
 a sham'd to tell you; only this your Honour
 may assure your self, that it lies somewhere,
 in Hands that have no more Right to it,
 than they have to my Wife *Deborah*. But
 the Cream of the Jest (for a Jest it is reck-
 on'd by some Sir) is, that as the surest Card
 in the transferring a Claim over to
 you understand me Sir, Very well. But
 then I say again Sir, that supposing any of
 those same Hands, that have been thrice an
 end at the *West Indies*, should chance to re-
 turn, don't they deserve all their Pay most
 Richly? Ay sure one would think so.

But awail-a-day Sir, there is another thing
 yet in relation to this confounded thing,
 call'd Money; and that is with respect to
 the Time or Season of paying our Wages,
 when it does come at last; and that is ever
 in the Spring; and just when the Ship is a-
 bout Weighing, and Bound out upon some
 remote Voyage: A Practice, which truly has
 a good handsome mixture of Folly in it,
 (under the Rose I speak it Sir, I hope :) For
 this

this same Wages being once in a Sailors Pockets, takes a final adieu of great *Britain*; because a Tan Sir, would certainly believe Old Nick had a Plot against his Soul, could he be infligated with so unhallow'd a Thought, as to be fonder in the preservation of his Money, than his Carcase; and so out of an impious Adoration to Mammon, loose the Mutton for the Shadow; bring home his Cash in imagination, and substantially leave his Body behind in Sea Pickle.

Now, Sir, in my simple Opinion, (I dare call nothing otherwise, that runs counter to Common usance,) I say Sir, my firm and almost settled Judgment is, that that same *Crede quod habes, & habes*, is a most Heretical Doctrine, in all Pecuniary Concerns; and no way current here in *Britain* among Landladies, and *Frippery-Shops* consequently, A Sailor upon his return Home, wanting to be *Equipt-de Novo*, and to put himself into a mauling posture for the hammering out young *Grummetts* upon his unlicens'd Anvil,) he cannot I say, take up any thing, either for Back or Belly, but upon Exorbitant Exactions, and all for want of the *Ready*. Wou'd it not therefore Sir, be much for the better, that *Mariners* were Paid just after their return? reserving (as is alway) half a Year, to be Paid them when outward bound again, to supply them abroad with Necessaries. By a Conduct like this, they wou'd be in a short while brought to live regularly and decently; like the rest of Gods good Creatures.

I know there are Men, (but tis no matter, they

they are but a handful Sir,) who would here Object, that this precise way of Paying, would make very many Deserters? no verily, none but Scoundrels will ever do it, when Pay'd in this happy manner; but granting that, even very good *Sailors* should do so, why, grant the half Years Pay (he leaves behind him) to any able *Volunteer* that shall come in and fill up the Vacancies, and my Life for it, they won't lie long empty.

Now, is not this don't you think Sir, a plain, honest, downright Project, for preventing all Pressing, even in *Seculum seculorum*. No certainly, the Fleet wou'd never want Men, because the Men wou'd never want Money; a Third Part paid going out, and two Thirds at their return, wou'd even in spite of 'emselfes, keep 'em alway in Plight, both in their outward and inward Man. And pray, most discerning Sir, where's the intricacy of all this, where the Embrassment? is it not much better to dispose of the Run-aways Dues, in this rational, in this charitable manner; then let it sink in the Pockets of *Noferdamus's* and *Nichodemus's*, and the rest of the Generation of *Mus's*. I beseech you Sir rub your Eyes a little, and consider the Consequences of such a Turn as this. First it would probably, tho' not infallibly bring all the aforesaid *Mus's* to Heaven without a string; where they wou'd appear like other good Christians, without er'e a Collar Mark about 'em. Then it would countermine all those dark Practices about the *R's* and *Q's*, which has been

so prejudicial to the Service, but much more to the Purse of the Nation ; which was still the more exhausted to fill up those same Vacuities. But what's yet above all Sir, this same expedient wou'd the more readily dispose the Board, to allow the *Sailors* one or two Months Liberty among their Friends and Kindred, after the Fatigue of a Voyage, or Expedition is over ; because the Government wou'd lie under no reasonable Apprehensions of loosing them, for as 'tis suposed they have a Time of leave prefixt, so if they appear'd not (barring unavoidable Casualties) at the expiration of their Furloe, (pardon this Phrase Sir, I was once a *Drum-Major*,) then the third of their Pay devolves to the first *Volunteer* that offers, (to which end publick Notices is from time to time to be disperfed a Shore,) and who would not offer himself for so tempting a Bounty.

Now when the Service can with security allow a moderate freedom, and the *Sailor* has a confident prospect of it at the finishing of a *Campania*, (there agen, well God forgive me,) why, I say Sir, 'tis morally impossible that we shall have any further Occasion for *Press-Ketches*, or *Gangs*, or *Constables*, or *Justices*, or any other of the *Posse's* in the Nation. Mistake me not Sir, I am not such a blind ZeLOT against Pressing, as to cry it down to all intents and purposes ; or to say with a certain *Oliverian* Captain, that in it self it is the most Horrid Thing in Nature, and inconsistent with the right and propriety of the Subject ; for this is by a sly *Inuendo*,

to

to charge us all with Slavery; even all Trades and Callings, as well as *Mariners*. For he who in time of Peace follows the Sea, as his proper Vocation, does, and ought as naturally, and justly expect being Press'd when a War breaks out; as a *Blacksmith*, (or any other Craftsman) dos to bear a *Musket* in the *Trained bands*, when summon'd to the Defence of his Country; he wou'd be exempt no doubt if he might, and plead the Right of a Free born Subject, of not being to be compell'd to what he has no mind to; but in spite of his muttering, he must comply with the Fate of his Calling, and learn to handle a *Firelock*, as well as his *Fire-Tongs*.

Our *Island* wou'd be just as no *Island*; were the Authority of Impressing abolish'd or reputed Tyranical: for to what a hopeful State of Security shou'd we be reduc'd, (having no other Frontier Towns to trust to but our Shipping,) if the Defence of this Noble *Island* were left to the discreet Noddles of every common Subject, and no Fleet equipt (upon any Insult made,) till 30 or Forty Thousand *Sailors* started up, one and all, and *sans* Ceremony, Run directly to her Majesties Dock-Yards. Surely there must some very tempting, some Mighty Powerful Provisions be first had, greater by far than any allowed off, before such a Miracle can be wrought.

Sailors in Peace, being Strangers to, and perhaps most of them totally unacquainted with War, and Ships of War; entertain

dreadful Ideas of both, inſomuch that very few can at ſuch a time be drawn in, upon the faireſt terms that can be offer'd 'em, but bring them once there, and a ſhort Experience very quickly diſabuſes 'em; and having ſhook of thoſe ſilly and childiſh Notions their former Simplicity had imbib'd, they ſtick cloſe for ever after to the Service, alway provided they lite on worthy Commanders. How many Men have we had that have made Topping Figures on the Stage of Action, who had been at firſt with a very great reluctance, hauld into the Service? Now how much had it been both to their diſadvantage, as as well as the Nation; if no ſuch thing as Preſſing had been known in *Brittain*.

I beſeech your Goodneſs, to give me leave to proceed a ſtep or two further upon this Head, becauſe it is a Topic, which every little Letter-writer like my ſelf, is everlaſtingly hammering upon. It muſt indeed be own'd, that there are a Thouſand Abuſes committed by it; but where's the blame? let the Perſons that commit or tolerate 'em, meet with no connivance but Correction, even a thorow Correction; and yet after all, it muſt be ſaid, that under ſome Circumſtances, (that is, when the *Iſland* is in-evident Danger) all thoſe Abuſes were nothing ſo fatal, as no Preſſing at all, but barely to rely on I know not what Impulſe, on the precarious, freekiſh Diſpoſition of a *Sailor*; eaſie to be corrupted even in his Sentiments of things, by deſigning Heads, who are never awanting upon any ſuch

Critical

Critical Occasions. And besides, it might so fall out according to the tide of Trade, that the majority of our Mariners might be abroad, when an Enemy all at once, comes down upon us.

Nothing is more certain, than that we have Persons enough in the Kingdom, who would be as willing and ready to serve their Country by Sea, as by Land without Pressing, were there but due Encouragements, and Honest Discipline met with there: But yet we must withall consider, that it is not every willing Fellow is a fit Man for the Sea, tho' he be for the Land Service; where a Month or two's Exercise ranks him almost equal with a Veteran Soldier; whereas so many Years will scarce season him, and much less qualifie him for an able *Sailor*. And yet after all, and notwithstanding the Multitudes that Laziness, Want and Beggary, spurs on to the Land Service; (Motives which Mariners can never labour under, so long as there is Commerce upon Earth: I say, notwithstanding all this, and all the Tricks, Fetches, and Stratagems that Serjeants and others make use of, we yet find how very incompleat most Regiments are, when they take the Field; which Deficiencies, the Navy cannot with any tollerable security admit of, for there's no parading with, nor intrenching against Storms and Tempests, and other Contingencies incident to the Sea Service; whereas a General by Land, may even with a meer Handful of Men do Wonders; and by cunning, and address, effect what Blows

rior Numbers could bring about: Nay, and let the worst happen, yet he scarce ever wants some, or other Strong Hold to retreat too, and recover his Losses.

Pardon, Oh! most forgiving Sir, this large Digression, which I must confess, is a no small Transgression upon your Patience; but that Noble Patience of yours, I know, will easily forgive me, when you find the use I draw from the Chat aforesaid; and it is this Sir, that if Thiry or Forty Thousand true Iron-bound *Sailors*, will not upon a pure Impulse of Honour and Gallantry, (which I durst almost swear they will not,) run into the Service upon e'ry sudden Emergency; but would be very apt to stand upon some Beach, or gapeing at the Enemy, like our Gentry, who have all the Possessions that is to be fought for.

And if in the second place, the Vocation of a Mariner be a kind of *passe-par-tout*, a universal Passport, that renders him welcom, and finds him ready Money, in almost every Corner of the Globe.

And if agen in the Third Place, the evident and essential Circumstances between a Soldier and a *Sailor*, be no more alike, than a Louse, and a Lobster. And if in the last place, (for I grow tired Sir,) a *Sailor* be a Creature of but the plain Common Stamp; endow'd with meer Sense and Reason only; without having any Comprehension of Minute Ideas, and very imperfectly acquainted with that standing Principle, *Omnia pro Patria*. Then I say Sir, that from the pre-

premises, we may draw these two very Logical Conclusions, *viz.* That the generality of Mariners, will ever turn their Noses toward that point of the Compass, where the Trade most flourishes; or where they may meet with the most, either Profit or Satisfaction. And therefore in the second place, that if ever we hope to have many and Trusty *Sailors* to stand, and stay by us in all Times of Need; we must trust more to good encouragements, than bad Impressings. Now these encouragements, are what I have been all a long aiming at; and which brings me to the second Course I promised to toss up for your Honours Pallate, or Consideration, and that is the Prize-Money.

To the eternal Honour Sir, of our Renownell *Queen*, and my Mistress, be it said; there could not a more Noble, or well plac'd Bounty be thought off, than what she has been most Graciously pleas'd to grant to Mariners, with relation to Prizes; I say better plac'd Sir, because as they most deserve of her Favour; so nothing relishes so sweet to 'em, as Money this way got, because purchas'd both with Toil and Danger; And not a little tickled are they likewise with the Noble Vanity of exposing at every turn, those Tokens of their Bravery.

Now this Sir, is looking upon this Bounty to its best Advantage; but if we turn the true end of the Prospective, we shall most certainly find, that no Resentments almost sticks closer by 'em, than Wrongs done to 'em this way. And these are so real, so frequent,

and gross, that nothing is so discouraging, and nothing more liable to make *Sailors* Desert the Service; for, as all Men of Soul and Spirit, resent Threats worse than Strokes; so are *Sailors* far more exasperated by Wrongs, than Drubing. Ay, but I'm but a single Evidence in this Affair, you perhaps may say Sir; and that perhaps't here may be Envy, Malice, Spleen, or some other such vile Passion, that may very much Cloud my Spectacles, and my Discernment; alac, good your Worship, can ye think I wou'd run the Hazard of losing my Post, and of being Whipt, and Pickled, and all the & *ceteras* belonging to our Discipline; would Incur all this? No, not so much as in a Dream; had I not a little more than Moral certainty in my own Senses, therefore verily Sir, it is purely *l'amour de la Verite*, (as my Mate a *French Huguenot* calls it,) that excites, or rather invites me to lay my Breast thus open, of whole Sincerity, you may perfectly be convinced in Sir, if you'l but give your self the trouble to summons up before ye, not certain devoted Creatures, but any other of the whole Ships Company; and you'l find they will with a *Nem' contra*-- what do you call it? I mean Sir, that they will One and all, affirm, Swear, Prove, and Maintain, that such a one,-- and such a one,-- and such a one, and such one is a--- a hint to the Wise you know Sir, is a Proverb.

And truly what other evidence or hint needs there be, than what's so apparent to all the wide World; for their speedy Rise
from

from a Dung-hill to a Coach and Six, and so forth, is an undeniable Proof of their far Fam'd Integrity, and Honour. And how (intelligent Sir) can you hope to have it otherways, when indigent Cadets, and more indigent — are straightway clapt into Preferment; for when a Commander, or other Officer, offers up a *Basilos manos*, to his Purse, for his Post; he will, by an imbred bent of Soul, embrace the Charge, not for the Dignity, but the Profit of it; as containing whole Boat loads of pretty Ways and Means, to the fetching in agen his Purchase Money. The Performance of his Devoir's, is the least of his Intentions; his precious Thoughts, are almost entirely taken up, with the Ingenious, Learned, and becoming Attempts, of making a Penny of every Body; of the Queen, the State, the Crew, the — I had almost said the Devil too; but truly that old Conjuror, commonly always meets them upon the Turn, gives them the necking Blow, and sends them to lye in W---- and leave their mouldy Bags behind, to W---- Bastards, and Stallions.

Well, but Friend, will you say (and I thank ye most heartily for saying so) what wou'd ye have me do in such a Case? Get 'em Squeez'd, Squeez'd dry, and then promote some other. Yes Sir, but not of the same Species I beseech ye; for then the last State of that Ship wou'd be worse than the first, as the Parable has it: And this same Parable Sir, minds me of a Story, somewhat *a-propo*, and which was told me t'other day,

by our Boat-swain over a Can of Flip. My Grandfather (said he) by the Mothers side, was a Vintner; who, by the dexterity of his Head, Conscience, Hands, and Feet together, did, in the twinkling of a Bed-staff, run himself up to a large Stock of Cash, and Wine together; which (according to the Sublunary Changes and Effects of things) did imperceptibly encline him to a Fondness after Ease and Laziness; and consequently engag'd him, to devolve the Charge of his Cellars, over to two or three Trusty Drawers, as he thought 'em to be: But a small Revolution of time made him, in spite of his Lethargy, to feel his Stock, and his Purse, to sink most unaccountably; nay, and found withall, that his Customers, and such as had been his standing Benefactors, were ever and anon Teazing him with Complaints, as that his Liquors were not of the old Stamp, but damnably Brew'd and Balderdash'd; and which was yet more intollerable, they were most insufferably wrong'd in their Measure too; nay, and could not have that neither, without much and long Attendance, even tho' they kept Tinkling of the Bell everlastingly. My Grandfather protested his Innocence in the matter; and that being Conscious of no Dishonesty in himself, had inclin'd him to believe, the rest of Mankind to be all of the same mould; but I find said he, I am strangely mistaken. So up he calls his Servants, and charges 'em with Breach of Trust, Knavery, and all that. My Sparks being no Babes, never once Colour'd for the matter; but believing Assurance and Impudence the best Armour, Swore stiffly, that they were as Honest, as the day was Light ----- A Pox on ye for a Litter of Hounds,

Hounds, (cries a hearty well-wishing Neighbour that stood by, and who had oft, and many time observ'd their Pranks) how can ye you Dogs pretend to Honesty, when we all know, that you are not only ever and anon damnably Drunk your selves, but make all your Visiting Relations so too, even to the thirtieth or fortieth Generation. The poor Slaves hung down their Ears at this; but one somewhat more Case and Face-harden'd than his Comrogues, brushes up his Countenance agen, and very roundly replies: Well Master, Murder will out at last I find; but yet Sir, I hope you will have more Sense than to Cashier us, till you can find out some others that will love Wine less than we do.

Here's for ye Sir, pray what d'ye think now; was not this very wholsom Advice, to come from such a Crack-Rope? And therefore most Sagacious Sir, let us have no Lean Wolves for Gods sake; but e'en let the almost Sated ones, look to the Sheep, till he have procured some Pastor-Fido's from Arcadia: And in the interim, to divert you Sir, from the doleful Sense which perhaps by this time you may have of our Condition, I shall with all due Deference, offer to your Thoughts, a couple of Considerations very well worth your Attention: And the one is, To find out Compleat and Effectual ways, of securing Prizes from all Trick and Embezzlement, till they are fairly and fully disposed of. And the other is, To distribute the Shares, in a more Rational and Equitable manner, than hitherto has been adjusted. Your Honour, I hope, does not believe these to be Two over-bold Propo-

Proposals, or any more, than seemingly to strike at the Wisdom of my Betters, for whom I have all due Veneration : But Sir, you know, and all Mankind know, *That as the Proof of the Pudding, lyes in the Eating ;* so the Wisdom of Laws, is solely found by their Tryal. Now, those hitherto made, with respect to Prizes, have been, and are daily found very ineffectual, to bring about the Just and Generous Ends they aim at ; and this, not so much from any nice and profound *Coup-de-Tete* in Commanders, but by [a blunt and downright Force, Openly, and in the Face of the very Sun, violating even those very ones also, that have the strongest Penalties annext to the Breach of 'em. Well, but let's come to the Point, to the first Point I mean Sir, and that is Honestly to secure the Prize when taken.

And here Sir, I must, by way of Introduction, let ye know, that the Method among s, when a Prize (or Prizes) is taken, is to cl^up strait Aboard of her, a few cull'd, choice Lads of the Captains own Kidney, and moulded up to his very Likeness : Now, I wou'd fain know, what shou'd hinder *Don John the Governadore*, from accomplishing all his Gentleman like ends, under so favourable a posture of Affairs as this. Why, perhaps Sir, you may say, That the Prisoners, and the Invoices, Bills of Lading, Charter-parties, and all that, will most infallibly rise up in Judgment against him. O Lord ! dear Sir, 'tis a sign you never was at Sea, for the least blast, or flaw of Wind,
shall

shall blow ye 10000 such papers out at a Cabin Window, and so are irretrievably lost for ever : And as to the Prisoners, why what do you think we have Surgeons for, but to feel their Pulses ; and all those found to beat high, and to have a quick Sense of things, are dangerous Fellows ; and therefore directly put Ashoar, 'tis no matter where ; the further off the better : But if two or three Nick-inpoops are found among 'em, having more Guts than Brains, and that know very little or nothing of the Ships Cargo, and so forth ; why these Sir—— Why, what of them —— ? Of them Sir ; why, as the only topping Men in the Prize, this is the Captain, that the Master, and the t'other is, I'll Swear the —— No, hold, I won't do that neither ; but I'll get Sir, others that shall Swear it for me ; and that's enough I hope, and so all's my own 'ifaith and troth as round as a Hoop.

Forgive me Sir, I'm only in Jest, and tell ye what a Man can do, and may do ; I don't say that every one, every Soul does so ; no, God forbid. And now Sir, after all, I think that, for the Comfort of some honest-like Souls, that they might not be lost by rash Swearing, and deliberate Stealing, it were very requisite, to find out some very home ways and means, that is to say some very Biting ones, and that may reach to the quick, to prevent all Clandestine Practices, with relation to Prizes. To this end Sir, I think (with the profound Humility of a Sea-Cook) I could offer a few Memorandums, that

that could not be unserviceable to so generous a purpose as thus Sir, for I hate Mortally to pore long upon the matter ; therefore

Your humble Servant wou'd, in the first place, *item* ye concerning the late *Act* about Prizes; which seems to have been solely compos'd, by a private Committee of Sea Captains; for its apparently deficient in its Penalties, scarce one Clause carrying any such thing along with it; and a Sea Law without a Penalty, is a meer Fly-flap, and far less regarded by a Sea Captain, than the spouting Snout of *Leviathan*.

In the next place, Sir, I wou'd be sure to mind ye about getting all former Penal Laws, with respect to Prizes, (excluding those relating to Prize Officers) more punctually Observed, and put in strict Execution; and not permit 'em to be Pist upon by some, and S---t upon by others, who most irreverently wipe their Posteriors, with the very choicest of them.

Then again, I wou'd be endeavouring to perswade your Honour, to find out strict Penalties for the preventing any removal of Goods, or whatever else belongs to a Prize, till such time as all, or at least the principal Prisoners belonging to the Prize, were sent aboard the *Captor*.

Strict Penalties, to prevent the said Prisoners from being Tamper'd with, or carry'd down into the great Cabin, till such time as they were fully Examined upon the publick Quarter-Deck, about their Papers of all kinds, with their Verbal Accompts of the Ship,

Ship, and its Cargo, both as to its Quantities, and Qualities, and Value, to the best of their Knowledge; all which to be transacted in the sight and hearing of the whole Ships Company then on Board, and taken down in Writing, by two Persons at least, (besides the Clerk) approved of and pitch'd upon by the Ships Company: And the said Written reports, when taken, (that is immediately upon the said Quarter Deck) shou'd be Read, and compar'd with each other, and also compar'd with the Invoices, Bills of Lading, Charter-parties, &c. and where they differ'd, notice to be taken thereof, and Writ down accordingly.

Penalties to engage all Mates, Midshipmen, and others, that keep Journals on Board, to insert a Copy of the said Accounts, in every of their Journals, to be produc'd when occasion may require.

Penalties to prevent Falsifying in Writing the said Reports made by Prisoners, and from preventing design'd and wilful loss of the Original Papers, Bills of Lading, &c. belonging to the Prizes; and to prevent Commanders from any way hind'ring Queries put by the Ships Company, to any of the said Prisoners, in relation to the Value, or Contents in the Prize.

Penalties to prevent an Officers imposing the most ignorant of the Prisoners upon the Ships Crew, by making them pass for the Officers that had belong'd to the Prize, in order to evade a Just account of Things, by withholding those that can give fuller Accounts, from appearing.

After

After Accounts so taken, if a Commander, without the concurring allowance of the Majority of the Ships Company, remove any thing out of the said Prize, or Prizes, he be made liable to all Embezlements, answerable to the Inventories aforesaid.

But whereas there are several Prizes taken without any Prisoners, or at least without such of 'em as can give a tollerable Account of Things: Therefore in such cases, Penalties must be made, to prevent the removal of any thing from the Prize, upon any pretence whatever, till the Hands that are assign'd to take charge of the Prize or Prizes, be actually on Board her: That these Hands, even all of 'em, (excepting the Lieutenaut or Chief) be such, and only such, as the Majority of the Ships Company approve of: And that in case any of these should chance, by Sickness, or otherways, to be removed; that no Hands supercede them, but such only, as have the concurring approbation of all.

That the Lieutenaut, or who else is Chief in the said Prize, be made to stand to the Penalties in all Embezlements and Pilferings; and that he may the better answer this, he to be empower'd, issuing forth nothing in or belonging to the said Prize, but by Written Order from his Commander, particularizing as well the kinds as quantities, to be deliver'd; which Orders he is to preserve, and produce for his Acquittance, when occasion requires.

That if any of the Hands in the said Prize, be found Guilty of Embezlements or
Wastes

Wastes, to be punish'd *pro rato* ; which, if considerable, to be Try'd as Felons at Common Law.

That some of the said Hands, as well as the Chief, shall take a written and precise Account, of every thing issu'd forth ; (which shall be transcrib'd into the Journals kept by the Officers and petty Officers, belonging to the *Captor*) and shall not by Threats, or Force, be hinder'd or oppos'd, in their discharging of this Duty.

That the Reward of apparent Perjury, (in Tryals or Examinations upon Prizes) be a Halter, if a Common Sailor ; but if an Officer Two, and those of the finest Hemp too.

Think not dear Sir, that these few Articles aforesaid, are more than a bare Specimen ; far am I from pretending to give you a compleat Model, which the Wit even of a whole Senate, perhaps cannot accomplish ; not but that I have a wonderful great Opinion of their united Sagacity, but believe me Sir, I have a somewhat greater one of Captain K——. Besides, you may perceive Sir, that the above *items*, wholly regard the Prize while out at Sea only, and to prevent her being Gutted there, without taking notice of her disposure when brought into Harbour, where possibly she may fall into the Hands even of the Devil of Devils.

For suppose she be consign'd over by the Captain, to a Creature of his own Stamp, as the whole and sole Agent ; (as he very well may, (since there's no Penalty to prevent it.) Why supposing but this, there needs no other
sup-

supposes ; but we may then safely go upon these certainties ; That if the Cargo (through want of Papers or Prisoners) is not known, then Mr. *Agent* shall (with the Captains directions) cut off one half directly ; and two thirds of the other half, by a Circumbendibus ; (this word I Learnt Sir, of a Begging *Grecian*) that is, some of it shall be charg'd Corrupted, Damag'd, Rotten, and good for nothing ; other some Course, Ordinary, and Unmerchantable, with all the *& cetera's*, belonging to Trick and Knavery.

Then agen, when this same Paltry Reduction is to be Sold, the ~~Plot's~~ so laid, that Mr. *A.* Mr. *B.* and Mr. *C.* shall carry it off against all other Buyers, for half its Value. And after this comes in another, a finishing Stroke ; why what's the matter ? No Money I protest to ye, Honest Tars ; for Mr. *A.* is turn'd *Bankrupt* ; Mr. *B.* is gone to the *Bath* ; and Mr. *C.* I find is a very slow Pay-Master. Now what's to be done in this case ? Done Sir ; why all the World knows *Monf. le Capitaine*, whips away strait with Ship and Crew to *Jericho* ; and there what by Sicknes, by Mortality, by Turnings, and Counter-turnings, not a third of the Numerical Tars, shall return again.

And now Sir, if Prizes of an inconsiderable Value, can tempt some Men on to all these Rascally Fetches ; what wou'd not a *Strait's*, a *Levant*, or a *West India* purchase do, of 10, or 20, or 30000 *l.* Value : Where's the Curbs provided in this Case ? Not any that a Captain need regard ; for loss of Com-
mission,

mission, is then not Bug-bear, nay, nor loss of Country neither; for he can purchase a Calm *Quietus* any where for his Money.

Hence you may perceive Sir, what a Task, what a just and important Task, remains for our Senate to go upon, and to see compleated, which I'm afraid, never can be done thorowly, till there be a Power allow'd to Subalterns, (upon certain Occasions, and under certain Restrictions) to Depose and Confine a Commander, as 'tis alway allow'd so, when he offers to deliver up his Ship to an Enemy; a loss not of so ill consequence perhaps, as Rascally Practices in the other.

But this Dish, I find, is become quite Cold and Insipid to your Reverend Palate; and therefore we will, without further Ceremony, present ye Sir, with the Second Course, concerning the Sharing of these same Prizes; in which, as I conceive, and I hope as you conceive too, there is a very wild Partiality, quite alien from all Sense and Reason, and extreemly dissonant to the Practice of the *French*, who I fancy are no Fools, tho' our Enemies, in this particular.

That its opposite to all Equity and Common Reason, seems evident to all unbiass'd Judgments, for a Captain by our Establishment, is Assign'd in a Second Rate, for instance, (where we will suppose only Two Companies of Marines, which is the least they have) 36 times more than his Lieutenant, and about 600 times more than a Common Mariner. Now what think ye
Sir,

Sir, don't we at this rate, make a plaguy Kill-Cow of this same *Individuum Vagum*; what wou'd a poor Inland Thrasher, that never set his Eyes on a Sea Captain in his born days, think, or say, when he heard of such a disproportion: Good Heaven! (wou'd he cry out all in amaze) what a woundy huge Draw-cancer is this you tell us of? why, *Garagantua* was but a Pigmy to 'en Lord! Lord! where does he Ligg of Nights? In a Cabin say ye; why it must be bigger sure, ay ten times bigger than our greater Barn here. You see Sir, here is the Dictates of pure uncorrupted Nature; and pray let's see also, how near Reason wou'd come up to it; where, pray where (wou'd she say) lyes all this mighty odds, to occasion so Monstrous an inequality: Has he 600 times more Strength or more Courage than his Sailors? Or has he 36 times more Honour or more Skill, than his Lieutenant? Down with your Commissions then Gentlemen Lieutenants; you are unworthy, very unworthy to wear one. But really Sir, 'tis so far from this, that they pretend to equal him in every thing, but his Parchment Commission. Alac, then says Reason, is that all; why the Queen recompences his Worship, more than sufficiently enough for that, in his standing Pay; which far, far surpasses that of his Deputy, who comes nothing short of him, either in Courage or Conduct; and who is much oftner Engaged in the taking of Prizes, than his Commander; for there's scarce one Prize in three, but what's taken by Boats only;

only ; or at least, without the Ships being obliged to any warm Engagement ; and consequently , the Captain has not the least hazard in the matter ; and must he then have 600 times more than a poor Fellow, that went, that fought, and took her ? O ye Gods ! from whence came this kind of Distributive Justice ?

I say not good Sir, that Inequality is no where else but here only ; for we find it too in several other Cases, for instance, where lies the Sense in making a Master equal to a Lieutenant , who heads the Enterprize ; or upon what Grounds is it, that a Young Gentleman that goes a Volunteer in an Attempt with Boats, and bravely darts through all Hazards ? must yet be allotted not the 20th part of what's allowed to a *Purser*, or *Chaplain* ; who at that time, (as at all others,) probably were a sucking their Noses in their Cabbins, and deriding the thick skull'd Valour of the Combatants.

These thoughts Sir, bring me *per force* as twere, to the Establishments of our Neighbours : I make bold with your good leave, to call 'em so, till the next Post bring us fresh Tidings about them, these same French then I must tell ye , shew a Wonderful Regard to a Common *Sailor*, for tho' their Captains are commonly *Counts*, *Marquisses*, and what not ; and Men of but very slender Revenues, yet notwithstanding all this, he's assign'd in all Prizes, but one third more than his Lieutenant : But they in truth are Gentlemen, that have more intent Eye up-
on

on their Honour, than their Purfes. And who, when the Spoil is brought before 'em, can, with a *Cavalier* Air, fay to a poor Tatter'd *Sailor*, (with that Noble Hero of Old,) *Tolle hac, tu enim non es Themistocles*. What think ye pray Sir, is not this a handsome pattern for our good your Honours to Coppy by? This Gallant Soul thought it a downright baseness to stoop himself so low, as to gather up the Spoil, even tho' a splendid Spoil, and none to lay claim to it, but a dead Enemy. But let's come to the *French* Establishment, which is Sir thus, (after the Parts belonging to the King &c. are deducted, a Mate has double to a Common Mariner, a Master double to the Mate, an Ensign (so called among 'em,) one third more than the Master, a Lieutenant double to the Master, and the Captain one third more than the Lieutenant: So that this Mighty Man of *Gath*; this Supream Head and Governour, has but 12 times more, than even a Common *Sailor*; and yet, 'tis evidently known, that he's far less prone to pilfering than those among us who are assign'd, Three, Four Six, nay in some Ships, 700 Times more than an able Seaman.

Mistake me not worthy Sir, for I don't pretend to hold forth this as a Lesson for us, exactly to Coppy by. But yet, as we *Brittains* seem fond of Moderation in all things, in our Conquests, in our Government, nay, and in our very Religion too; let us not then for Gods Sake make a Pope of a Captain; and run him up to such a giddy height,

as

as to tempt unthinking groveling Tars, to commit Idolatry, and pay him infernal Adoration.

I dare not offer Sir, to set Bounds to your Wisdom in this Affair; but if your Honour will give me leave to address ye, by way of supposes, why then truly, I wou'd suppose the dividends thus proportioned, that is to say, in all Prizes taken by the Ship, (and not by Boats,) the Shares of an ordinary *Sailor*, double to a Boys; the double of an ordinary to an able Mariner, the double of theirs, to petty Officers of the lower Class, including Letter Men, and Reformades, one third more than they, to the petty Officers of the first Rank, *Midshipmen*, and *Mates*, double their Shares to the Warrants; one Third above these to the Master and the *Surgeon*, (in lieu of his Chest,) the Lieutenants double to them; and the Captain double to his Lieutenants. Oh Lord! what but double? why he'l desert the Service; ay, ay, een let the Milk Sop put Finger in Eye, and whine, because he han't all the Bread and Butter; and so starve all his poor Brethern: let him troop so a Gods Name Sir, for this very thing will induce some one of true worth the rather to step in, and fill up the Vacancy, because a Post of Honour appears with the Nobler Aspect, the less shew it has of Mercenary. But a Pox on't, I'm afraid after all, that these same Leeches Sir, will still stick too, and keep their hold; because in troth, this same Proposal is not such a deadly leveller, as your Worship might

might perhaps, at first blush imagine; for verily here is carv'd out for his Share a great deal more than either God or Nature design'd him; no less Sir, than 50 Times more than a Common *Sailor*, now what wou'd he be at? what wou'd he have? why truly, only humbly to beg the Government, to make some 600 Slaves; in order to furnish out a compleat Coxcomb of the first Magnitude.

Ay, but now in the second place Sir, what wou'd such a Gentleman say about Attacks, made purely with Boats only; and where his Mightiness has not one wet Finger, nor one hair of his 50 Pound Wigg in Danger; certainly in all such Cases, those individuals concerned in the Action, ought not to be blindly shuffled in among the rest of the Ships Company; and have no better share than such as never did, nor never will embark upon such an Enterprize. I pretend not they shou'd lay Claim to the whole, but yet common Equity requires, that their Rewards be in some degree proportion'd to their Dangers, for all the World knows that oft times far more Hazard (tho' far less noise and din) is met with in an Enterprize by Boats, than the Ship her self, especially where the Commanding Don is endow'd with a cautious Valour. Therefore methinks Sir, in all Attempts of this nature, especially where the purchase is had by Blows, and a repulse made; the *Captors* cannot in Reason be allowed less than treble Shares, according as they stand upon the Ships Books, and
left

lest a Captain, to lessen their Claims in such Cases, should send none but ordinary Fellows upon all such Rencounters; the withholding any petty Officer, or Reformed, that shall offer his Service in the Expedition, ought to be made Criminal, except where there's very Just Grounds for such a detention.

Matter, I find Sir, flows in fresh upon me; and I have a whole Pot-full more of profound Remarks in view; which I shall take care to Boil, and Dish up, for your Honours acceptance, as these I hope have already met with. O! how glad am I, of this happy Occasion, of opening my so long suppress'd Packet of Advices, before so Worthy and Judicious a Patron; which wanting so favourable an Opportunity, had been unfortunately buried in Oblivion: For alas Sir, I'm but a poor Cook you know, that has no living Soul, but my Kettle, to stand by me; so that had I took the same course with other Proposal-Mongers, and presum'd to send up this to, you know who Sir, 'tis a thousand to one, but it had been Intercepted by Mr. *What-d-ye-callum*, who had Tript it strait away down to Mr. *How-d-ye-callum*; who wou'd have Pickled up poor Peel'd-garlick, in his own Beef-Barrel.

I will not dear Sir, ruffle your Temper, rack your Patience, nor incommode your Eyes, any longer at this time, especially by dilating upon my own publick Spiritedness; which Sir, you evidently behold here, to be very extraordinary, and which, I doubt not, your Goodness will abundantly Cherish, by

now and then watering it with a little Preferment ; one small Lift at least Sir, that the compassionate World may have no occasion to Sigh, and say, oh what a thousand Pities it is, so bright a Candle should be hid within a Smoaky Cook-Room : This Thought Sir, my Profession I mean, makes me Blush at this Close, when I come to beg the Honour of owning my self,

My Lord,

Your Lordships

Most Devoted Footstool,

SLUSH.

Thus, or in some such like way, (O most *Job-like Reader*). shou'd my poor Sentiments from time to time be deliver'd in, among the rest of our Fraternity of Wise-Acres, without incurring any danger, even tho' we might frequently meet with disappointments ; for we are ever to suppose this same Person, (or Persons) a Man of compleat Honour and Integrity ; and these wou'd give every poor Well-meaning Pleader, assurances of not being Betray'd, even tho' his Proposals or Complaints, might meet with dislike : Burnt they might be perhaps, but not their Author with them. But neither could we reasonably apprehend, that any thing would be rejected, that brought but a favourable Appearance along with it ; because we likewise suppose him to be a Gentleman endow'd with so much Sagacity and Steadiness, that

as nothing of Solid could lye hid from the one, so no weak Passions either warp or discompose the other. Lastly, (for I shall think on no more) we also suppose this same Patron of Mankind, a Person of that Zeal and Application, as to Open, and Read, and &c. all Addresses in *propria persona*, without devolving the Fatigue over to a Secretary's-Secretary's-Clerks-Clerk, and deliver'd in by a Porter's-Porter's Shoo-wiper, *a-la-mode-de-Paris*; but rather, according to the more incomparable Practice of the *Genoese* and *Venetians*, have a Receptory made, where Letters or Informations, (of a more than common Stamp) may be slid in, so as no Person whatever, might come at them, but him solely for whom they were directed; who might every other day, pay a Visit to this Sanctuary of Justice; and not only Peruse all he finds there, but by *Roti*, or Letter, answer the Persons too, where the Concern was such, as seem'd to require it.

Thus have I offer'd at one very effectual way, (in my Opinion) as well for the suppressing of Corrupt and Villanous Practices, (the Off-spring of Immoralities) as the promoting of whatever might have any apparent tendency, towards the Improvement of the *Navy Royal*. I say not, that this wou'd answer to all its Ends and Purposes, without some few Additional Supplements; for the Truth is, it is not every Sufferer that is perfectly Sensible of all his Grievances, no more than every Evil-doer, that can be charg'd with Wilfulness in all his Transgressions,

sions; Ignorance as frequently makes us bear Evils with Calmness, as Act them without Remorse; for not one in a Thousand perhaps, is, or ever was acquainted, with all the Laws and Injunctions, with relation to Prizes, and so in other Cases. Therefore in the next place, 'twou'd be very convenient, nay 'tis highly necessary, to have Printed upon the one side of a Sheet of Paper, all the Laws, (or an Abstract at least) with all the Penalties relating to Prizes; in the same Paper should be Printed too, a Stated Account of the Just and Daily Allowances, of all Species of Provisions, whether Dry or Liquid, in the *Channel*, or elsewhere; nay, and to include and particularize also, the very Cans, Platters, and Lights, allow'd from time to time, to the Messes: Some might perhaps think this very Ridiculous, because none can presume Sailors Ignorant of Things of such Daily Concernment: But I must inform all such credulous Gentlemen, that I have known a whole Ships Company (the Purser and Captain solely excepted) that were perfectly Ignorant of their proper Dues, in two Species, (the one Dry, the other Liquid) of their Daily Allowance, and so were constantly Cheated of half their quantities; and yet the Purser never so much as suspected for a Rascal.

Upon the said Sheet also, should be Inserted, some Directions where, and in what form, Sailors might apply, in order to be Redress'd in any Wrongs they may Labour under; for I actually know several Claims depend-

depending (in relation to Prizes) purely through this Ignorance ; for nothing is more easy (since there requires Impudence only) to Shuffle a poor Fellow off, that knows not how, or which way to Right himself, but by downright Blows, and those he is Sensible, will never bring him in any Money ; and by this and the like means, it comes, that our Taxes are told over a Grid-Iron. Now this same Paper, being clapt upon a Board, ought to be kept constantly Hanging in the most conspicuous and frequented part of the Ship ; and be made Penal, for an Officer to omit, or discontinue it Hanging there.

Alack; the Bell has struck Seven, so I find I must draw toward a Conclusion, for Time, Tide, and a Sailors Stomach, will stay for no Body : Now, 'tis certain, that a Person of a Fruitful Invention, and Glatt'd with Ease and Leisure, (as a Chaplain, a Purser, or a Gunner, may alway be presum'd) might contrive, or find out, several other Ways and Means, to bring our Naval Affairs into a right Tone : But e'ry little Cur' ye know, is sondest of his own Cubs ; even so I also (a poor two Legg'd Creature of Heavens making) find a natural Proneness of good-liking, toward this as yet unlickt Off-spring of my Skull ; and verily believe they would prove extreamly effectual, were they thorowly Executed : Executed I say Honest Reader, for without this, I woud'nt give a Fig. for all the Laws, or three Legg'd Trees in *Christianity* ; for verily, setting a part all these

fine knick-knacks of mine, the very Laws, and Printed Orders already Establish'd, and in Force, are far more than needful among Honest Men; nay, and more than sufficient even among Knaves, were the Penal ones well observed: But when Execution daily decays, and Sharping more and more flourishes, tho' we had Ten Thousand more Laws than we have, they won't signify a Button: How many good Laws have we already for instance, concerning Prizes? and how many the most material Clauses have even Capital Punishments tagg'd to 'em; and yet have I known some Men break through not this, or that, but every of 'em, even in taking of a single Prize; and the Parties never once called to Account about it.

I say not that our Laws lye always dormant; but the Devil's in it, when they should be awake, then are they in a dead sleep; and when they might very Christianly take a small Nap, or so, then are they most Rampant: For suppose a Sailor, thus Wronged as aforesaid, should chance upon the Road, to meet such a Superlative Robber as his Captain, and (compell'd by Want) offer (not to pick his Pocket) but make the Coward, of his own accord, deliver his Purse; (not the Ten Thousandth part perhaps, of that very Money he had took from his Crew) why this poor Indigent shall strait be Truss'd up for this trifle, which justly speaking, was his proper Right too. Now where Law runs with so strange a Byass; it cannot be supposed

posed that any, but Stanch Gamesters, can manage it to purpose ; a Skill, which a poor Sailor wants both Time, Money, Interest, and Understanding enough to attain to.

And this Consideration brings us directly round agen to the place where we first set out, and to conclude, that no expedient whatever is comparable to that one, of filling up all Vacancies with Persons of undisputed Worth and Integrity for there is not a more natural, and never failing consequence in Nature, than for Sailors (as well as Soldiers,) to Love, Honour, Obey, and follow with Pleasure, and by choice, Men of Honour, Probity, Generosity, and Humanity, and to Contemn, Hate, and desert poor Spirited sneaking Souls; full of narrow selfish ends, and Rascally Principles. Those need no Press-gangs, no nor the least beat of Drum to raise Recruits ; while these in spite of all the prest Supplies, which almost every day are sent into em, are ever incompleat, and those too the Skum and Refuse of a Nation.

I wou'd not be thought here, to exempt the more subordinate Officers from all guilt, but I would have it withall considered, that where there's the most Authority, there lies the most Blame ; because 'tis wholly within their Power, to turn and wind about with equal Facility the Hands, as the Shipping, the force of Law, is equal to that of a Helm, and if he Steer by it, and it only, where's that vain Upstart, that dare say unto him, what dost thou? Therefore as I said, Subalterns not being vested with a-
ny

ny such Sway, let them endeavour to shape never so even a Course, within their proper Sphere. Those who preside, will never have the main Current, to run their own way.

I am sensible enough, that it wou'd appear, and perhaps prove too bold a step, and cause too general a Clamour, to go about to reform and garble the Navy at once; by putting in strict Execution the Laws in force against Drunkenness, Immorality, Imbezlements, &c. Yet thus far certainly it might be carried with Security and Applause, *viz.* not to admit any vacancies to be fill'd up, but by such only as are Strangers to all such wretched and unhandsome practices. This just and equitable procedure, wou'd (tho' in a slower manner) effectually reform the Fleet, and consequently be a means to invite the best of Men, and most Honourable Families, to enter the Service, Abandon'd by all, but such, whom Want, or Avarice keeps chain'd there.

But how says my Reader here, which way can an Admiral, or Flag, foresee or penetrate Mens Purposes and Intentions, or know what kind of Officer a pretender may prove? 'tis God alone can scrutinize into Hearts and Dispositions; yes certainly, it's He alone can do it by direct intuition, but yet Men, Wise men at least may do it also, by enquiry and reflection; especially with Persons not very culpable of dark disguise, or profound Dissimulation; by which Ends are well secured, long ere the Intentions blaze forth. No, our Navy is seldom blest with any such
Courtly

Courtly Politicians; Designs here, are never deep laid, nor carried on with nice *Italian* subtilty, but all's open, all above Board, and our Sparks are far more ready to justify their Crimes, than conceal them. Now if we will preposterously turn ou Thoughts, and our Ears, from Mens Words, and their Actions, and barely judge 'em as Jockeys do Horses, by lifting up their Tails, and so keek in at the wrong end of the Prospective; if I say we will meerly take up with Men's Externals, proportion his Honesty to the fullness of his Wigg, and believe those have the most shining Honour, that wear the Richest Imbroidery: Why, 'tis impossible then to chose to purpose, even tho' we drown all our *Barbers and Taylors*.

But granting these Persons Thought, as well as Chatter'd, and had such a proportion of the Man, mixt with the Brute; as rarely to permit their Vices to glare, like so many Fire-brands: yet the pittifull and mean ways, almost always made use of to procure Perferment; as by Begging, Cringing, Buying, and the like base means, are, one would think, as so many self evident proofs what their Aims be, and where their ends tend to, for he who will stoop to such abject, and dishonourable Methods, can never design Honesty or true Honour, as the object of his wishes, but will, and must, even by a kind of mechanical necessity, be selfish, and proling; not barely in his Thoughts, and by stealth in his Actions; but even openly and professedly in his Discourses too. Thus
have

have I heard, nay, and scarce any thing else can be heard, in the converse of the Navy, but ridiculous Stories about their Gains and Losses; their *Tyburn* Slights, and *Newgate* Contrivances; and this rehearsed too, with such an Air of Pride and Vanity, as made it too evident, such Infamous Practices were by those Sots believed, the result of consummate Prudence and Sagacity.

But perhaps we trust to Miracles, and fancy Mankind in these Days, as subject as of old, to strange Metamorphoses; that Asses may in time, hold forth Lessons of Reformation to straying Prophets, and a confirm'd Rake, be Metempsychos'd to a Philosopher. No, verily such wonders are ceas'd, e'er since the days of *Augustus*, so that we ought rather, according to the unerring Doctrine of modern Experience, to believe, that a Debauchee, or Sharper, meeting with promotion, will be but ten times the more inflamed to ill, both as having a larger Field to act in, and much stronger assurance of doing it with security: He will not then so much renounce, as contemn his former diminutive Tricks, and fix upon practices, big and brilliant, such as give proof of a Masculine Vigour, and maturity in Wickedness; and which may excite poor puny underlings in Sin, to emulate, and copy them.

Now if such Men compose the Majority in our Fleets, what can we hope for, Great, or Lasting? A Herd like these, not only disappoints all our Hopes by Sea, but exposes us to the very Laughter of our Neighbours;

bours; for what a standing Jest is it, to pretend to free *Europe* from Chains, and determin the *Meums* and *Tuums* of Foreigners, while we render the very Instruments of such Glorious pretences, the most injur'd Slaves upon Earth. If we have a real, and downright Regard to right and property, let us shew it first to those of our own Household; and permit those that have laboured, and toil'd the most towards our happy successes, to enjoy some small share of the Fruits of their Labours; and not, as they daily do, fall a Prey to those Barbarous Men, whose very Mercy's are Cruel.

And now, if there has been such a persevering good Christian, in Town or Country, as to have held out with me thus far; I assure him I shall ever have a very high Opinion of his Constancy; and tell him also, by way of Apology, that I ne'r would have drill'd him o're such a vile long Quagmire; had I had the same leisure, and as much Patience, as our Reverend *Chaplain*; who has sacrificed so many Years Study to the production of his little dapper *Homer* in a Nut-shell. But alack, such is the Temper of my outward Man, that tho' I asked no longer his Assistance, and good Company, (to reduce this to the exact dimensions of my Exemplar,) than wou'd have been just requisite, to the Steeping, Boiling, Sauceing, Eating, Digesting, and Evacuating of a good piece of Sea-Beef, (at which, tho' I say it, even *Lamb* himself does not surpass me;) yet verily Reader, I wou'd not by either

that fair, or foul means prevail with this
perverse Flesh of mine, to stick by the stuff;
but the sullen Toad flung off, in a damn'd
Chafe; and protested; he'd drudge not one
Minute longer, for an ungrateful set of A-
nimals; whom he was sure wou'd return
him only a T—d for his Labour. *Vale.*



F I N I S.